No. 7
PEP COMICS
ACTION DETECTIVE ADVENTURE
THE SHIELD!!
G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY
AUGUST
10¢
NOVICK

PECK BROTHERS

Boys

IF YOU ACT FAST—

LEMONWOOD 5 ft. BOW and 6-24 in. ARROWS $4.85

Special Introductory Price

Regular Retail Value $7.98

During this special sale you get for the first time an American Brave 5 ft. flat style, lemonwood bow and set of six arrows for the amazing low price of $4.85.

Bow is first quality, straight grained Cuban lemonwood, air dried and thoroughly seasoned. Grain is carefully followed as stave is roughed out, irregulars rejected. Skillfully tillered by hand, form tested dozens of times to get that smooth action so important in getting higher scores on the range, more game in the woods.

Built up leather grip, celluloid edging. Sanded by hand, beautifully finished. Selected quality hemp string.

Six 24 in. birch arrows with brass Parallel piles, two-color cresting. Three feathers, odd color cock feather, precision mounted for flawless flight. 24 in. target and shooting instructions. Available up to 28 lbs. pull.

Price complete during this limited sale, $4.85.

If you wish you can send $1 and pay balance on delivery.

AMERICAN BRAVE, *Illustrated*
Archery Set, $4.85

LITTLE MAN
Archery Set, $4.35

ALL-AMERICAN
Archery Set, $7.85
FOR ADULTS

LEATHER FINGER GUARD 25c

LEATHER ARM GUARD 65c

ALL-AMERICAN ARCHERY SET
5½ ft. lemonwood flat style bow with built up handle securely glued, doweled and pegged. Spiral wound calfskin grip, celluloid edge. Finest hand rubbed lacquer finish. Six Port Orford cedar arrows, self nocked, with Pirate nocks 65c extra. Bow is available up to 45 lbs. pull. Price $7.85.

LITTLE MAN ARCHERY SET
This set is the same as the American Brave illustrated and described above, except that the bow is 4½ ft. and arrows 21 in. Makes the ideal set for beginners both boys and girls. Price $4.35.

All prices F.O.B. Mt. Carmel, Conn.

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY

PECK BROTHERS 2062 WHITNEY AVENUE, MT. CARMEL, CONN.

Send Archery Set marked. Amount enclosed

☐ American Brave $4.85 ☐ Little Man $4.35 ☐ All-American $7.85 ☐ Pirate Nocks 65c extra ☐ Finger Guard 25c ☐ Arm Guard 65c ☐ Tenegrip Leather Quiver $1.45

Name _____

Address _____

_____

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Give your Height, Reach and Age

PECK BROTHERS

Announce

LITTLE CHIEF

Indoor ARCHERY SET

HICKORY BOW
Rubber-Cup Arrows
24-In. Tripod Target

$2.95

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Just the set for beginners—youngsters—who some day will be top-notchers in this fascinating sport.

After you practice a little get Dad and Mom to test their skill against you. Target sets up in the living room, recreation room, garage or on the lawn.

Three legs set in sockets support the target. Length: Bow 40 in., arrows 19 in. Red, white and blue target.

Just write in the margin "I want a Little Chief Archery Set" and mail the coupon. Be sure you give your age, etc.

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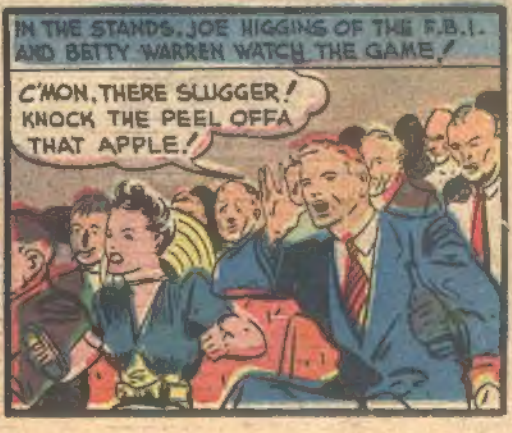
IRVING NOVICK
HARRY SHORTEN
THE SHIELD
G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY
JOE HIGGINS, G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY IS KNOWN TO ONLY ONE LIVING PERSON, THE CHIEF OF THE F.B.I., AS THE SHIELD. THE ENEMIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE SHIELD, AND HE USES ALL HIS TITANIC STRENGTH AND INTELLIGENCE IN BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE. IN THIS EPISODE THE SHIELD TURNS GANG BUSTER ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT!

AN EVIL CREW GATHERS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF AL MORONI, GANG BOSS!
MADAGGIO'S HAD THREE WARNINGS AND HE STILL WON'T COME ACROSS! TAKE CARE O' HIM!

SLUGGER MADAGGIO, SCORING ACE OF THE AMERICANS, SAYS GOODBYE TO HIS WIFE AND CHILD AS HE LEAVES FOR THE BALL PARK!

LATER, HE FACES THE STRIKE OUT MAGIC OF WHEEZY SEEN, BLUE SOX HURLER!
STRIKE ONE!


IN THE STANDS, JOE HIGGINS OF THE F.B.I. AND BETTY WARREN WATCH THE GAME!
C'MON, THERE SLUGGER! KNOCK THE PEEL OFFA THAT APPLE!

HE'S GOT ONE STRIKE ON ME. I'LL MURDER THIS ONE! IT'S RIGHT DOWN MY ALLEY!

MADAGGIO CONNECTS... AND...

JOE HASTENS TOWARD THE BATTER'S BOX!

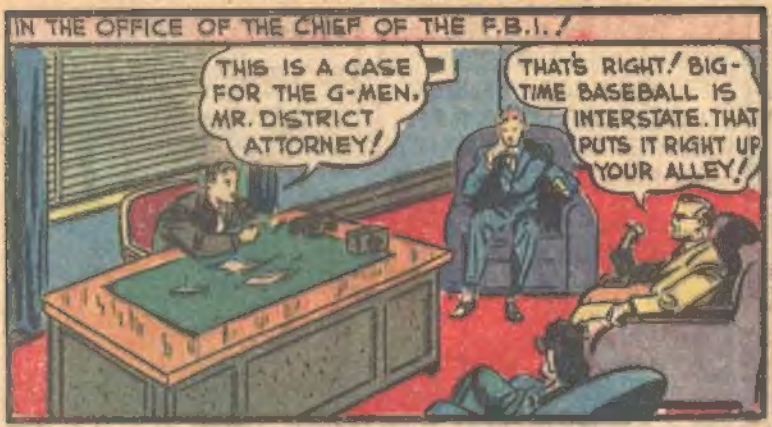
UGH, WHAT A SIGHT! HE'S DEAD ALL RIGHT!
STAND BACK!
WHAT HAPPENED?

MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER BALL PARK—
THIS IS THE WINNING RUN!

AN INCENDIARY BULLET IS SHOT FROM THE STANDS, AND.....
HELP HEL.....

ANOTHER BALL PLAYER MEETS HIS DEATH!

BACK AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF AL MORONI!
SO A COUPLE OF BALL PLAYERS HAVE BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY KNOCKED OFF!
THAT'S TOO BAD! MAYBE THE REST OF 'EM WILL PAY UP FOR OUR PROTECTION SERVICES NOW!


IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF THE F.B.I.!
THIS IS A CASE FOR THE G-MEN, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY!
THAT'S RIGHT! BIG-TIME BASEBALL IS INTERSTATE. THAT PUTS IT RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY!

THE LOCAL POLICE ARE STUMPED. WE'VE TRIED TO GET INFORMATION FROM THE WIVES OF THE DEAD BALL PLAYERS, BUT THEY WON'T TALK!

THE D.A. SOON LEAVES!
HIGGINS, YOU TAKE OVER!
I'LL START AT ONCE!

LET ME HELP, JOE!
NOT A BAD IDEA, BETTY! MAYBE THIS CASE NEEDS A WOMANS TOUCH!

WITH BETTY GONE, THE SHIELD SWINGS INTO ACTION
I'LL FOLLOW BETTY, JUST IN CASE.....

BETTY ARRIVES AT THE HOME OF MADAGGIO...
GOOD THING THE BOSS TOLD ME TO KEEP A LOOKOUT!

I'M ONLY TRYING TO HELP YOU MRS. MADAGGIO!
DON'T ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS! I WON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!

SHE WANTS TO TALK, BUT SHE'S DEATHLY AFRAID OF SOMETHING — I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE HER TALK!

THE WIFE OF THE OTHER BALL PLAYER TOLD ME ABOUT THREATS AGAINST HER CHILDREN!
SHE...D... DID!...I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING!
JOE RECEIVED A LETTER LAST WEEK, ASKING FOR A HUGE SUM OF MONEY. IT SAID IF HE WENT TO THE POLICE, HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WOULD BE KILLED. JOE REFUSED TO PAY, AND.....
YES, I KNOW.
AS BETTY LEAVES....
ALL RIGHT, SISTER, PUT 'EM UP!
OH!
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO A LADY!
THE SHIELD! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
JOE HIGGINS ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU!
....AND SO THIS GANG IS TRYING TO SHAKE DOWN ALL THE BALL PLAYERS!
I GUESS I'LL FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS!
ALL RIGHT RAT, START TALKING! WHO'S THE BIG SHOT?
I DON'T KNOW NUTTIN'!
MAYBE THESE ELECTRIC WIRES WILL MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!
HELP!

OW! I'M BEIN' ELECTROCUTED!
MEMORY BETTER, NOW, OR DO YOU WANT ANOTHER HEAT TREATMENT?
NO, NO, I'LL TELL EVERYTHING I KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE BIG SHOT IS. I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! THE NEXT ONE TO GO IS, CAL BUBBLE OF THE NEW YORKERS!
LEMME DOWN!
SO LONG, BETTY! I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE NEW YORKERS!
BUT...WAIT!
THE THUG IS DELIVERED TO THE LOCAL POLICE IN THE SHIELD'S OWN WAY!
HOLY SMOKE!
HELP! I'M GUILTY!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHAT ARE YOU GUILTY OF?
MURDER! FORGERY! ARSON! ANYTHING! ONLY DON'T LET THAT SHIELD GET HIS HANDS ON ME AGAIN!
THE SHIELD SOON REACHES THE LOCKER ROOM OF THE NEW YORKERS!
I DON'T WANT THEM TO SEE ME! I'LL WAIT UNTIL I CAN GET THE MANAGER ALONE!
THE SHIELD MANAGES TO GET TO MANAGER TERRIER AND CAL BUBBLE, STAR PITCHER!
I'M THE SHIELD! YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER, MR. BUBBLE! I'VE GOT A PLAN IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU MR. TERRIER!
SURE SHIELD!
NEW YORK

LET ME PITCH TODAY INSTEAD OF MR. BUBBLE!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME!
GO TO IT!

HEY, BILL, WHO'S THAT?
A NEW ROOKIE! CALLS HIMSELF THE MASKED MARVEL!
NEW YORK

THE SHIELD SOON TAKES THE MOUND!
I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY THE GAME WHILE I'M ABOUT IT!

I'VE BEEN SHOT!
WHERE'S THAT BALL?
OOPS! THAT BALL SLIPPED!

THE SHIELD TAKES HIS TURN AT BAT!
I MUSTN'T SWING TOO HARD OR ELSE.....
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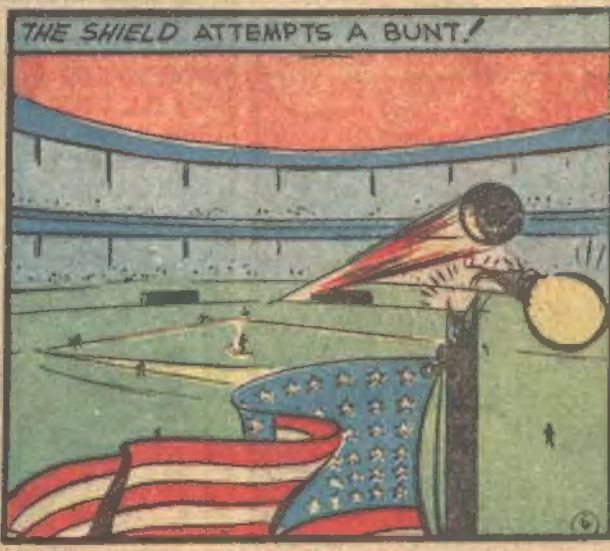
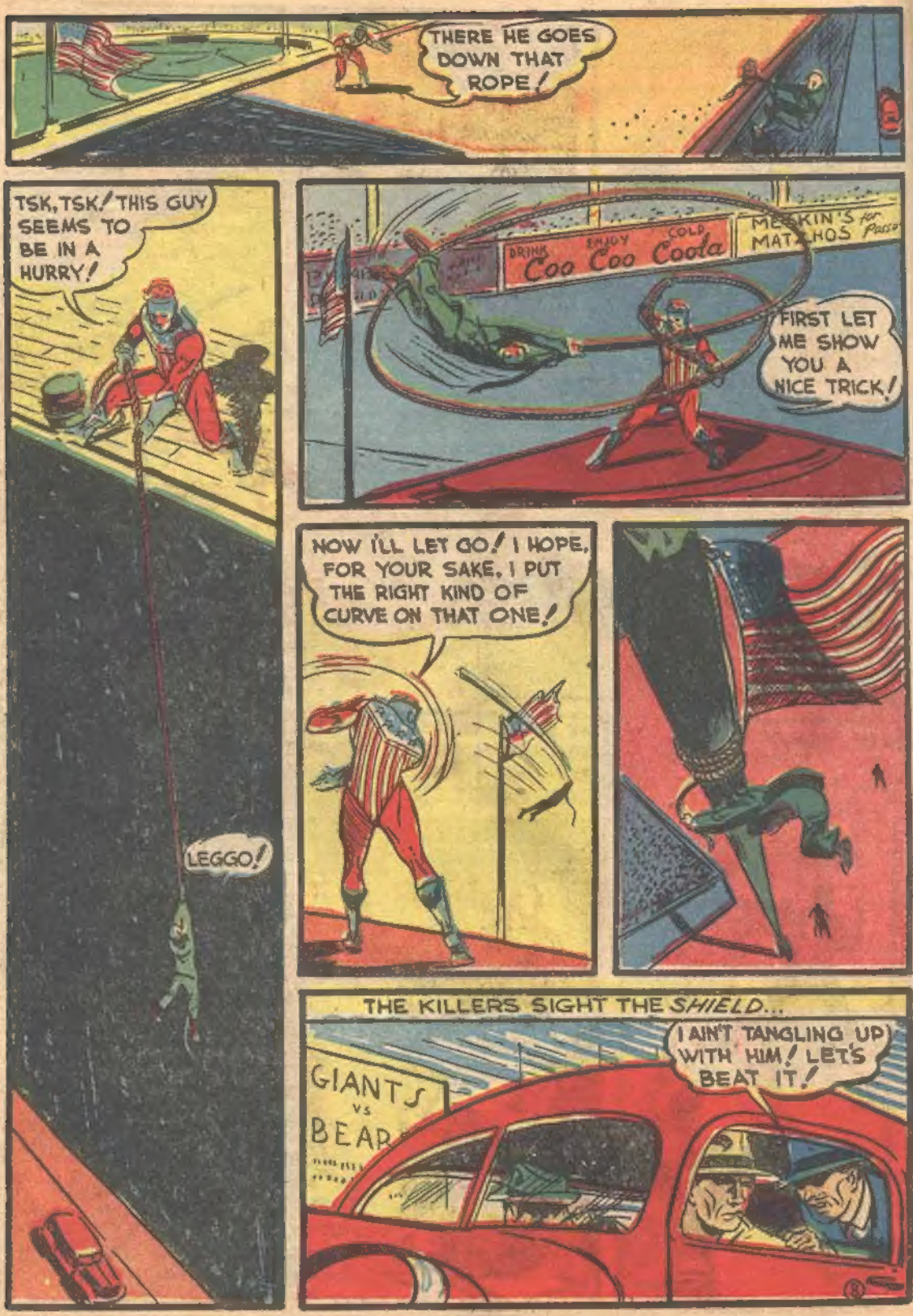

THE SHIELD ATTEMPTS A BUNT!

THE BASEBALL CONTINUES TRAVELLING WITH TERRIFIC MOMENTUM!
ME PAPER! WHERE'S ME PAPER?
THE BALL IS MISTAKEN FOR A COMET!
WE'VE DISCOVERED A NEW COMET!
WE MUST REPORT OUR FINDING IMMEDIATELY!
THE GAME'S NEARLY OVER. MAYBE THAT HOODLUM GAVE ME A WRONG STEER!
SUDDENLY.....
THAT BULLET CAME FROM THE ROOF OF THE GRAND-STANDS!
IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, THE SHIELD SHEDS HIS BASE-BALL UNIFORM!
THESE THINGS HAMPER ME!
THOUSANDS WATCH WITH UNBELIEVING EYES AS THE SHIELD SWINGS INTO ACTION!
UPSA DAISY!
BENNY! THROW AWAY THE FLASK! I GOT THE D.T'S!

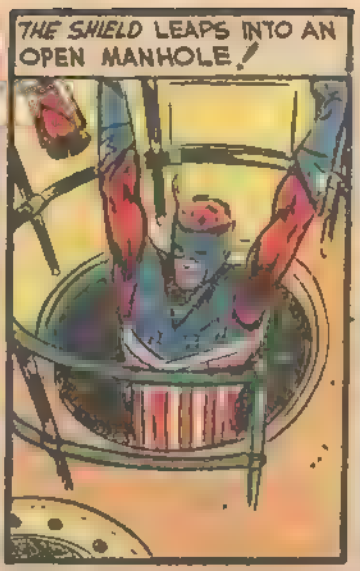

THERE HE GOES DOWN THAT ROPE!
TSK, TSK! THIS GUY SEEMS TO BE IN A HURRY!
LEGGO!
DRINK Coo Coo ENJOY COLD Coola
FIRST LET ME SHOW YOU A NICE TRICK!
NOW I'LL LET GO! I HOPE, FOR YOUR SAKE, I PUT THE RIGHT KIND OF CURVE ON THAT ONE!
THE KILLERS SIGHT THE SHIELD...
GIANTS vs BEAR
I AIN'T TANGLING UP WITH HIM! LET'S BEAT IT!

THERE GOES THE GET-AWAY CAR! I'LL FOLLOW IT!
THE THUGS SOON ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION!.....
AND IMMEDIATELY REPORT TO MORON!
I'M GETTIN' OUT OF TOWN BOSS. THE SHIELD IS AFTER US!
YOU YELLOW PUNK! I CAN HANDLE HIM! HE WON'T DARE TO COME HERE!
HERE HE IS!
LET HIM HAVE IT!
HELLO BOYS! DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?
SAY, I REALLY BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO HURT ME! LET'S PLAY CATCH!
THE SHIELD SENDS BACK THE BULLETS WITH MORE MOMENTUM THAN FROM THE BARREL OF THE GUN!
BOY, AM I PITCHING STRIKES TODAY!
UNSEEN, BY THE SHIELD, MORON'S FINGER REACHES FOR A BUTTON!

TREMENDOUS GRAPPLE HOOKS SHOOT OUT OF THE WALL AND PINION THE SHIELD TO IT!
I TOLD YOU GUYS I WAS READY FOR THE SHIELD!
ANOTHER BUTTON, AND THE WALL SWIVELS AROUND!
SO LONG, SHIELD! IF YOU KNOW ANY PRAYERS, SAY THEM!
THE SHIELD FINDS HIMSELF IN A STEEL-WALLED ROOM AS A HEAVY NUMBING LIQUID POURS FROM JETS.
THIS STUFF SOLIDIFIES ALMOST AS SOON AS IT COMES OUT!
MORONI SPEAKS TO THE SHIELD THROUGH A MICROPHONE!
THAT STUFF IS LIQUID LANTHOLUM AND IS TEN TIMES HEAVIER THAN MERCURY. YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY THIS TIME!
NOW I'M GOING OUT TO KNOCK OFF A COUPLE OF MORE BALL PLAYERS WHO SQUAWKED!
WHEW! THESE HOOKS WERE TOUGH!
A NEW MENACE ARISES, A
THAT MORON! CERTAINLY ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES OF MY ESCAPING!

HAS THE SHIELD AT LAST MET HIS DOOM???
WHAT A SPOT! IF ONLY I CAN.....
THE SHIELD USES EVERY OUNCE OF HIS WANING STRENGTH IN A DESPERATE UPWARD HEAVE, AND....
OOOOMP! THAT DOES IT!
BUT THE DANGER IS NOT YET PAST!
AND NOW TO GET OUT OF THIS! THIS LANTHOLUM IS HARDER THAN STEEL!
THE SHIELD RIPS HIMSELF FROM THE IMPRISONING SOLIDIFIED LIQUID!
AND IMMEDIATELY MAKES FOR THE STADIUM!
I HAVENT GOT A MINUTE TO LOSE!
I'LL USE MY OWN HIGHWAY!
A RACE AGAINST TIME!
THE GAME WILL BE OVER ANY SECOND NOW! MORONI WILL TRY TO SHOOT THEM DOWN AS THEY COME OUTSIDE!

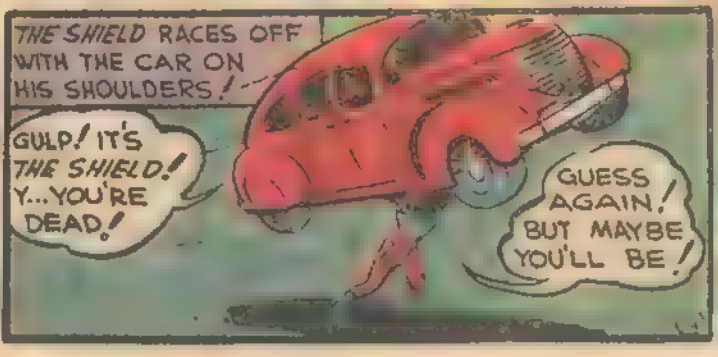
THERE THEY ARE!


THE SHIELD LEAPS INTO AN OPEN MANHOLE!

MEANWHILE, MORON! AND HIS MEN PROCEED WITH THEIR DEADLY WORK!
THERE THEY GO! PULL UP TO THEM!

WILL THE SHIELD ARRIVE TOO LATE???
GIVE IT TO 'EM!

BULL'S EYE!


THE SHIELD RACES OFF WITH THE CAR ON HIS SHOULDERS!
GULP! IT'S THE SHIELD! Y...YOU'RE DEAD!
GUESS AGAIN! BUT MAYBE YOU'LL BE!

THE SHIELD REACHES COOGAN'S BLUFF!
I'LL GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS!
NOW START TALKING, OR I'LL SAVE THE TAX-PAYERS A BILL FOR THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
LEMME UP! I'LL SIGN ANY-THING!
THE RIOT SQUAD SOON ARRIVES!
JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT!
IT'S MORONI AND HIS MOB!
LOOK! THERE'S WRITING ON THE SIDE-WALK!
THE POLICE READ MORONI'S SIGNED CONFESSION!
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, I AM GUILTY OF THE BASEBALL MURDERS!
Al Moroni
ONCE AGAIN JOE HIGGINS!
WELL I GUESS THAT'S THAT!
THE NEXT DAY!
AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE I WAS INTERRUPTED, C'MON YOU MUG! SLAM THAT BALL OUT OF THE PARK!
THE SHIELD IS OFF TO NEWER AND GREATER ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
RED COMICS

THE MOST ASTOUNDING MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
THE COMET
JOHN DICKERING, A YOUNG SCIENTIST HAS DISCOVERED A GAS WHICH- WHEN INJECTED INTO HIS BLOODSTREAM- ALLOWS HIM TO MAKE PRODIGIOUS FLIGHTS THROUGH THE AIR. THE GAS EMITS A DISINTEGRATING RAY THROUGH HIS EYES THAT ONLY GLASS WILL STOP. AIDED BY THELMA GORDON, YOUNG NEWSPAPERWOMAN-AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS HIS TRUE IDENTITY, DICKERING, AS THE COMET, CONDUCTS A ONE-MAN WAR AGAINST CRIME.
AFTER ROUNDING UP A GANG OF RACKETEERS, THE COMET HEADS HOME.
WELL, THELMA HAS A GOOD STORY, AND I'VE DONE MY GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY.
SUDDENLY HE STARTS TO DRIFT TOWARD THE EARTH.
WHAT TH-! SOMETHING'S WRONG! I'M FALLING!
CLANCY, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
BE JABERS! THE COMET! LET'S GET 'IM!

THE GAS MUST HAVE WORN OFF! I'LL HAVE TO RUN FOR IT.
I'D FEEL A LOT SAFER IN THE AIR.
STOP! STOP OR WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
HE WENT THIS WAY! C'MON CLANCY!
C'MON YOURSELF! WHO, DO YOU THINK I AM, GLENN CUNNINGHAM?
I KNOW COMETS SOMETIME END UP IN ASHES BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT SO SOON.
NOW TO GET BACK HOME WITHOUT BEING SEEN AGAIN.
VOICES DISCUSS THE ARMY'S NEW PLANE
.THE FLYING JUGGERNAUT WILL BE IN THE BAYOU.'
EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THAT PLANE, BUT THOSE GUYS ARE MIS-INFORMED. IT'S NOT GOING TO THE BAYOU!
SAFE AT HOME, THE COMET RUSHES TO HIS LAB-ORATORY.
I'LL EXPERIMENT WITH SMALL INJECTIONS.

THE NEXT MORNING AFTER HOURS OF EXPERIMENTATION.
I WAS RIGHT! BY TAKING SMALL DOSES OF THE GAS I CAN BECOME EITHER THE COMET OR PLAIN JOHN DICKERING, WHICHEVER I LIKE.
HELLO THELMA, I'VE GREAT NEWS FOR YOU.
I'M AFRAID IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, JOHN, DEAR. I'M COVERING THE FLYING JUGGERNAUT'S FIRST FLIGHT TODAY.
GOOD GIRL! WELL I CAN DO WITH SOME SLEEP. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET BACK AND WE'LL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.
THAT'LL BE FINE. GOOD-BYE.
EXHAUSTED FROM HIS NIGHTS WORK THE COMET DOZES OFF.
YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF MAKING THE FIRST FLIGHT MISS GORDON.
THIS IS CERTAINLY A THRILL.
STOP! YOU CAN'T! OOOOH!
MOWING DOWN ARMY OFFICERS, THE SPEEDING CAR COMES TO A HALT BY THE FLYING JUGGERNAUT.

DON'T MOVE!
I'LL TAKE THE CONTROLS, HANS! KEEP THE SKIRT FOR PROTECTION!
IN A FEW SECONDS THE ARMY'S GREATEST WEAPON IS IN THE HANDS OF ENEMIES!
WITHIN THE HOUR THE ENTIRE NATION IS AGHAST AT THE INCREDIBLE EVENT!
...AND ANYONE SIGHTING THE SHIP IS URGED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE WAR DEPARTMENT.
HO-HUM.. WONDER IF THERE'S ANY MUSIC ON THE RADIO!
THERE IS STILL NO RELIABLE REPORT OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE FLYING JUGGERNAUT HI-JACKED THIS MORNING WITH A YOUNG NEWSPAPERWOMAN ON BOARD, AND.....
AFTER HEARING THE DETAILS OF THE VANISHED PLANE, THE COMET ZOOMS AWAY!
WHEN THE COMET AWAKES ...
BUT AFTER HOURS OF FRUITLESS SEARCHING!
NOT A SIGN OF IT, AND THE ARMY AND NAVY HAVE BOTH COAST LINES COVERED!
BUT IT COULDN'T JUST HAVE DISAPPEARED! LET'S SEE, WHAT WOULD ENEMY AGENTS DO? MOST LIKELY TAKE IT SOMEWHERE SO THEY COULD MAKE PLANS OF IT.
IF ONLY-- SAY THOSE MEN I HEARD TALKING LAST NIGHT.... THE BAYOU COUNTRY! NOBODY WOULD HAVE SAID THAT IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW!

I HAVEN'T A MINUTE TO LOSE!
TWO DAYS LATER... OVER THE BAYOU SWAMPS...
I'VE JUST ABOUT COVERED THE WHOLE PLACE! I GUESS MY HUNCH WAS WRONG AFTER ALL! BUT, WAIT!
THE SECRET HIDEAWAY OF THE FOREIGN AGENTS.
SPEED UP THEM BLUEPRINTS, BOYS. HEY, WHAT'S THAT
THE COMET
GET YOUR GUNS READY!
SPURTING INSTANT DEATH, THE COMET DIVES INTO A HAIL OF EQUALLY DEADLY BULLETS.
YOU HAVE IT COMING TO YOU!
AND YOU GOT THIS COMING TO YOU- AWWHH!
NOT THIS TIME, BUT HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?
ONE MOVE AND I LET THE SKIRT HAVE IT.
I CAN'T DO A THING TO YOU BEHIND THAT GLASS!
HIS EYES FOCUSED BETWEEN THELMA AND THE SPY'S GUN THE COMET MOVES FORWARD.
I WARNED YOU!
BUT I CAN DO SOMETHING ELSE!

THE SPY ORDERS FIRE BUT THE COMET DISINTEGRATES THE BULLETS IN MID AIR!
I THINK THAT ABOUT EMPTIES THAT CAP-PISTOL, MISTER
WHAT! WHAT HAPPENED?
ALL THAT MATTERS, IS WHAT HAPPENS FROM NOW ON!
I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP! DON'T KILL ME!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO FLY THIS SHIP AND ALL THESE PAPERS RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU STARTED FROM.
SEVERAL HOURS LATER AS THEY NEAR THE TESTING GROUNDS.
HERE COME THE ARMY PLANES! HERE'S WHERE I LEAVE. YOU'LL BE SAFE NOW!
WHAT A STORY THIS IS. BUT WHEN WILL I SEE YOU?
WE CAN STILL KEEP THAT DINNER DATE! MIGHTY HUNGRY AFTER TWO DAYS OF FASTING.
YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY A GREAT SERVICE, YOUNG WOMAN!
DON'T THANK ME - THANK THE COMET.
DON'T HURT ME, I'LL CONFESS!
DAILY BLAST
COMET RECOVERS FLYING JUGGERNAUT!
U.S. ARMY ASKS CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL... BY THELMA GORDON.
LATER THAT EVENING AT A TABLE FOR TWO.
INSTEAD OF FILLING YOU FULL OF LEAD, NOW EVERYONE WANTS TO FILL YOU FULL OF MEDALS.
FUNNY, ISN'T IT? AND ALL I WANT TO DO IS FILL MYSELF FULL OF NICE JUICY STEAKS!

MORE ADVENTURES OF — *THE COMET* IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF — PEP COMICS —

PERRY CHASE

THE PRESS GUARDIAN

ONLY CYNTHIA BLAKE, PERRY CHASE'S SECRETARY KNOWS THAT PERRY IS THE INDOMITABLE *PRESS GUARDIAN* —— IN THE LAST ISSUE THE AMBASSADOR FROM LANFIA WAS KIDNAPPED AND AN IMPOSTER, WHO WAS TRYING TO RUIN THAT NATION'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, SET OUT TO BLOW UP THE TREMENDOUS DU VON MUNITIONS PLANT —— AND PLACE THE BLAME FOR THE CRIME ON THE HEAD OF THE AMBASSADOR FROM LANFIA!

by MESKIN AND SUNDELL

MEANWHILE THE *PRESS GUARDIAN*, ACCOMPANIED BY CYNTHIA AND THE TRUE AMBASSADOR FROM LANFIA ARE CLOSE ON THE BOMBERS TRAIL!

THE CLAW WILL PAY ME WELL FOR THIS NIGHTS WORK!

THERE HE GOES!

WAIT FOR ME HERE, I'VE GOT TO STOP HIS EXPLOSION FROM GOING OFF!

AS HE ENTERS THE FACTORY, THE *PRESS GUARDIAN* SEES THE FUSE, BURNING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE BARRELS OF GUN-POWDER

WOW!

I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT FUSE!

THE *PRESS GUARDIAN* DASHES INTO THE FACE OF ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH!

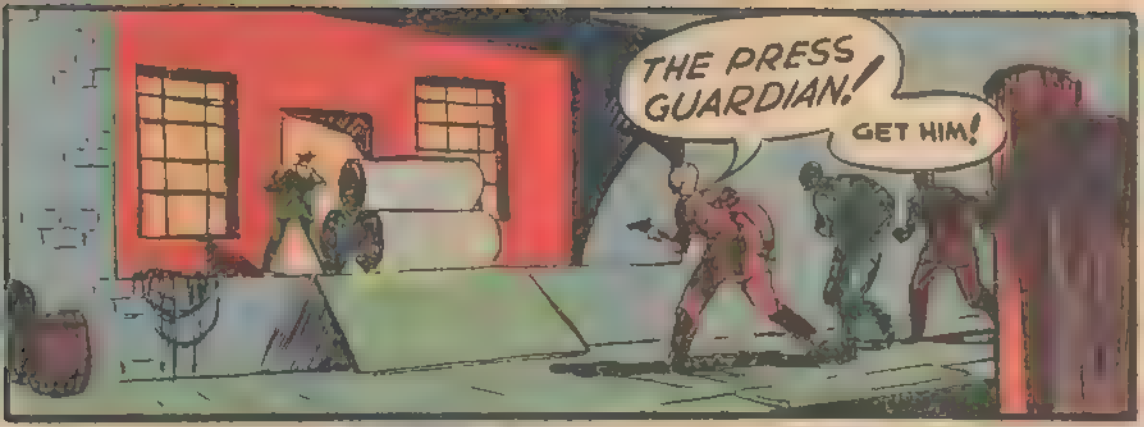
IF THAT FUSE REACHES THOSE BARRELS.....

PERRY HURLS HIMSELF AT THE KEGS OF GUNPOWDER KNOCKING THEM AWAY FROM THE SPUTTERING FUSE!
THEN STAMPS OUT THE HISSING SPARKS!
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PER—ER... PRESS GUARDIAN!
YES! THAT DANGER IS PAST! BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS!
UNLESS WE CAN BRING THESE SABOTEURS OUT INTO THE OPEN, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL TRY NEXT! TAKE THE AMBASSADOR TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE OF THE DAILY EXPRESS AND TELL HIM THE WHOLE STORY!
PSST— CYNTHIA! I'LL MEET YOU THERE, BUT AS PERRY CHASE!
IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY EXPRESS
.....AND, IF YOU PRINT THAT YOU KNOW ALL THE FACTS, AND YOU'LL EXPOSE THEM TOMORROW....THE GANG WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO SILENCE YOU!
SWELL IDEA, POP!
GOOD— THAT WILL BRING THEM OUT INTO THE OPEN, AND WE CAN EXPOSE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE!

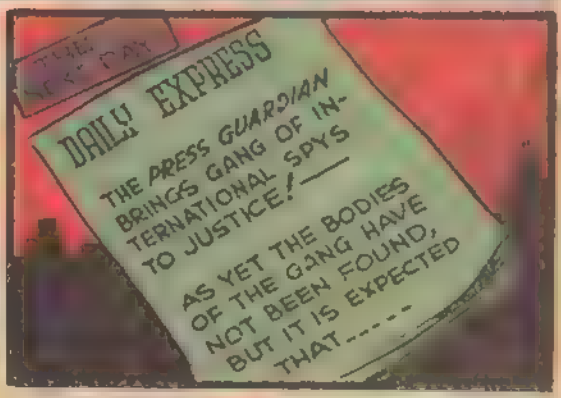
IN A ROOM BELOW AN INNOCENT LOOKING WATER-FRONT SHACK!
WE SHALL NOT FAIL IN OUR NEXT ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE DU VON PLANT!
SUDDENLY...
HEY, CLAW! LOOKIT DIS!
WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED!
DAILY EXPRESS- SENSATIONAL EXPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL SPY RING!
WATCH THIS COLUMN TOMORROW, FOR THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT THE ATTEMPTED DESTRUCTION OF THE DU VON MUNITIONS PLANT..
HMM—VERY INTERESTING—THERE IS ONLY ONE AMONG US WHO COULD HAVE SQUEALED!
THAT PERSON IS.....
YOU!
NO! NO! I SWEAR IT! UGH...H.!
THE DU VON BOMBER MEETS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE CLAW!
THAT STORY MUST NOT BE PRINTED! THE PUBLISHER HAS A SON. WE WILL SEIZE HIM—AND FORCE THE PUBLISHER INTO NOT PRINTING THOSE FACTS!
3

THAT EVENING..... AS PERRY CHASE LEAVES THE DAILY EXPRESS BUILDING /....
HURRY UP, CYNTHIA!
THAT'S THE GUY!
START WALKING, BUDDY, TOWARD THE WATERFRONT! AND KEEP YOUR LIP BUTTONED!
OH DEAR! GANGSTERS! HOW TERRIBLE!
AS CYNTHIA STEPS OUT OF THE BUILDING.....
OH, OH! PERRY'S GETTING ACTION SOONER THAN HE THOUGHT!
WELL, HERE GOES. GOOD THING PERRY GAVE ME THIS GUN!
THAT SHACK IS THE ONLY PLACE THEY COULD HAVE GONE!
CAUTIOUSLY OPENS THE DOOR!
NO ONE IN HERE — THAT'S STRANGE.... OH-OH- WHAT'S THAT?
A TRAPDOOR!

AND UNLESS YOUR FATHER FORGETS ALL ABOUT THAT DU VON BUSINESS—YOU DIE!
BETTER BUMP HIM OFF ANYWAY, BOSS! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH!
SUDDENLY A SHOT RINGS OUT!
I COULD HAVE PUT THAT BULLET THROUGH YOUR HEAD—IF I WANTED TO.... NOW UNTIE HIM.... FAST! AND DROP THAT GUN, YOU WITH THE WATER ON THE BRAIN!
CRIPES! A DAME!
A "DAME" SHE MAY BE, BUT SHE SHOOTS TOO WELL. RELEASE YOUNG CHASE!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, PERRY AND CYNTHIA ARE DASHING ALONG THE DOCKS TOWARD THE DAILY EXPRESS!
THEY'LL BE AFTER US IN A MINUTE!
THERE THEY GO! INTO THE DELIVERY ENTRANCE OF THE NEWSPAPER PLANT! FOLLOW THEM!
BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVE, INSTEAD OF PERRY CHASE, THEY ARE GREETED BY.....



AS THE THUGS CHARGE UP THE RAMP, THE *PRESS GUARDIAN* HOPS BEHIND SOME ROLLS OF PAPER!


DAILY EXPRESS
THE PRESS GUARDIAN BRINGS GANG OF INTERNATIONAL SPYS TO JUSTICE!—
AS YET THE BODIES OF THE GANG HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT-----

SO DO WE.—

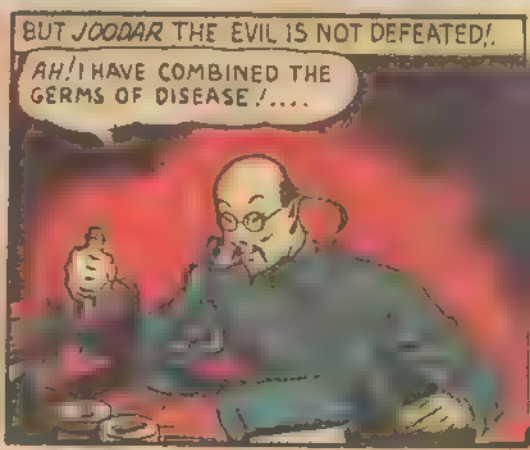
BUT WE CAN ALL FIND OUT, BY READING THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PRESS GUARDIAN IN PEP COMICS

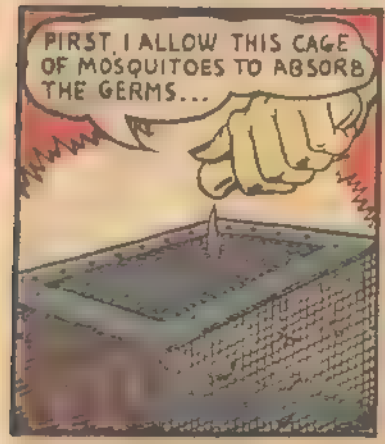
FU CHANG International DETECTIVE

FU CHANG, CHINESE SCHOLAR EDUCATED IN AMERICA, IS HEIR TO THE MAGIC CHESSMEN OF ALADDIN. WITH THEIR AID, HE COMBATS THE FORCES OF EVIL OPERATING AGAINST THE PEACEFUL PEOPLE OF HIS CHINATOWN.

By Lou Blanchett Stretton

FU CHANG AND HIS FIANCEE, TAY HING, SPEED HOMEWARD AFTER DESTROYING THE WATER DEMONS OF JOODAR THE EVIL.
PEACE WILL AGAIN PREVAIL IN CHINATOWN!

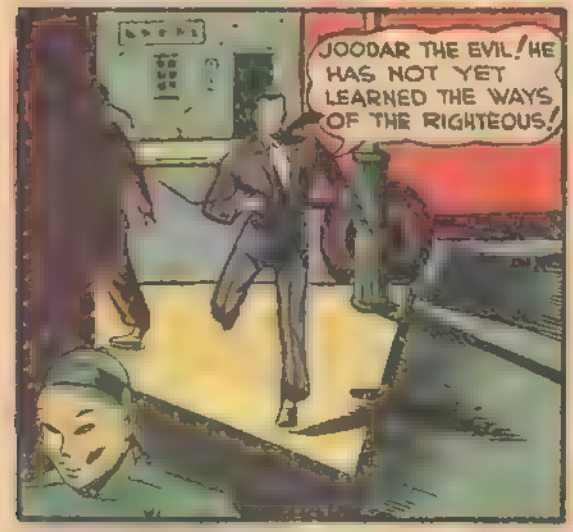


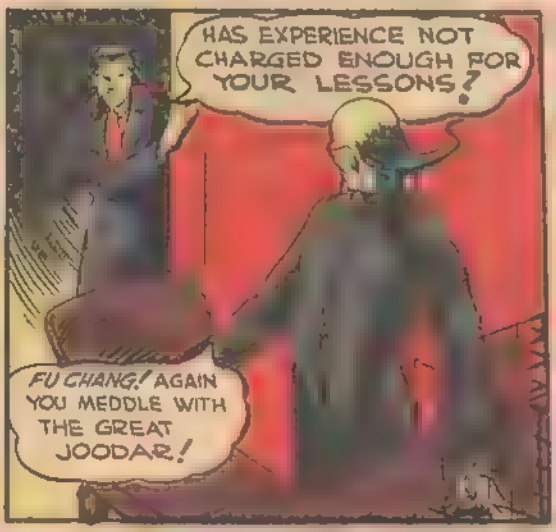


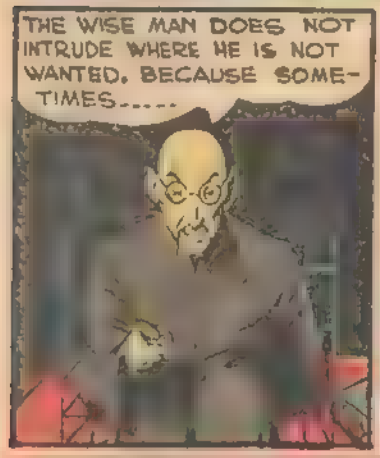
SOMETIME LATER AS FU CHANG AND TAY HING ARR...E...
SHI-LEE IS LATE TO HIS SHOP THIS MORNING..
CLOSED
AS IS KU-TZE, WHOSE SHOP IS ALSO CLOSED

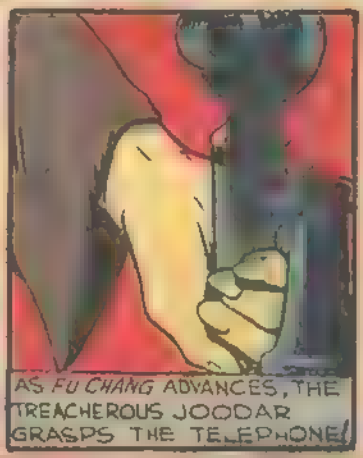
IS IT A HOLIDAY? OLD FOY SUN IS ABSENT ALSO!
FOY SUN DWELLS ABOVE HIS SHOP. LET US VISIT HIM!
DOCTOR TEN! YOU COME FROM FOY SUN'S! IS HE ILL?
I REGRET! AS ARE SCORES OF OUR NEIGHBORS!
WHAT CAUSES THIS STRANGE OUTBREAK?
I AM BEWILDERED! THE SYMPTOMS CONTRADICT THEMSELVES!
BY YOUR LEAVE, WE SHALL PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE UNFORTUNATE ONES!
TAY MING! IN THE HOME OF EACH BED-RIDDEN PERSON, I HAVE NOTICED A MOSQUITO! THIS ONE I HAVE CAPTURED I SHALL TAKE TO MY LABORATORY!
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF INTENSIVE STUDY
YOU HAVE DISCOVERED SOMETHING, FU CHANG?
YES! THIS MOSQUITO IS CARRYING BACTERIA OF MANY DISEASES!
PERHAPS THE GOD OF MY ANCESTORS WILL ENLIGHTEN ME ON THIS MYSTERY!
FU CHANG REPAIRS TO HIS DEN OF MAGIC!
GREAT GOD OF MY FATHER, BRING ME AID IN MY TIME OF NEED!
CREATURE, AID FU CHANG! SEEK OUT THE CREATOR OF DISEASE AND SICKNESS!
THE GOD SPEAKS! A CHESSMAN COMES TO LIFE!

THE LITTLE SPY RETURNS!
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISEASE AND UNHAPPINESS?
JOODAR THE EVIL! HE IS AGAIN PLOTTING AGAINST CHINATOWN!





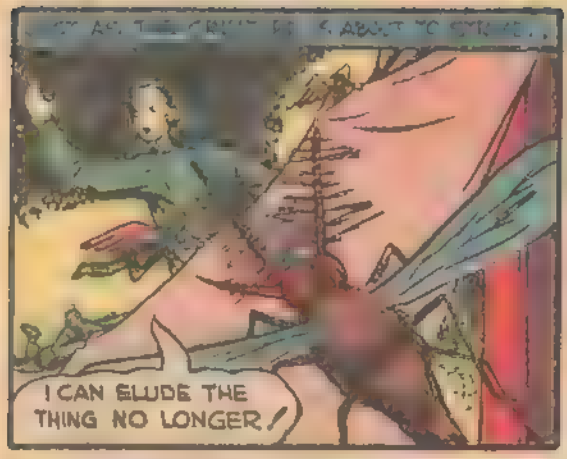


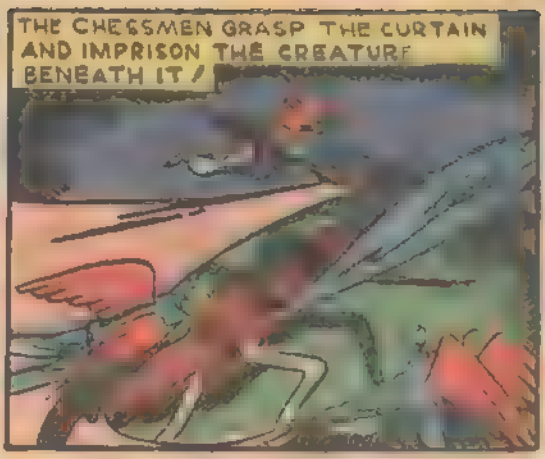


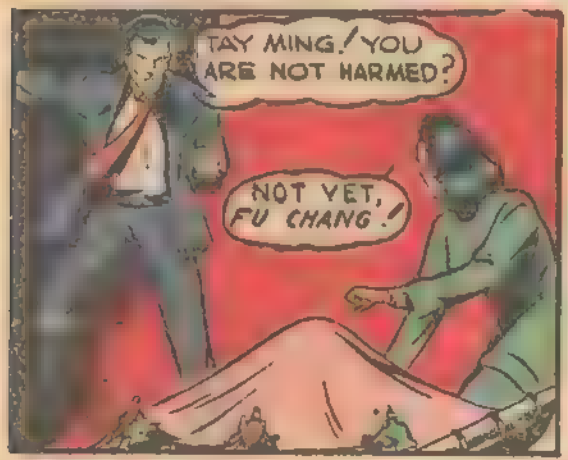
WATCH FOR—THE FIREFLY"

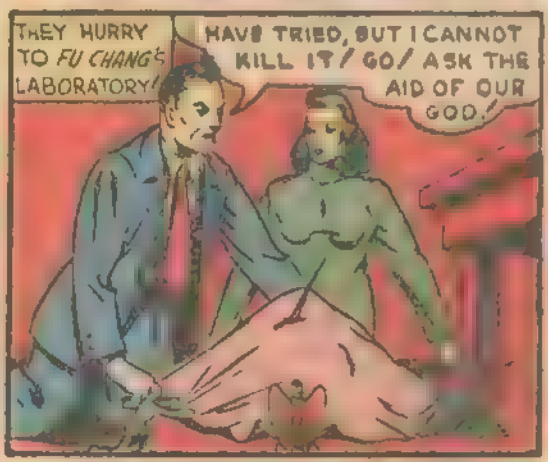
THESE BONDS SHALL HOLD HIM, AND WHEN HE REGAINS HIS SENSES, I SHALL DELIGHT HIM WITH MY DISCOVERY!
JOODAR WORKS FEVERISHLY UNTIL FU CHANG RECOVERS!
AH! THE SLEEPER AWAKENS! YOU WOULD SEE WHAT I HAVE HERE? LOOK CLOSE, FU CHANG!
FU CHANG'S BEWILDERED EYES BEHOLD...
HA! HA! IS IT NOT A BEAUTY? THIS MONSTER OF MY CREATION!
IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY! WHAT IS THAT THING?
INOCULATED WITH BACTERIA, IT WILL SOON WREAK HAVOC THROUGH ALL CHINATOWN!
YOU INSANE MADMAN! COME BACK!
HA! HA! I GO FIRST TO TURN THE MONSTER LOOSE AGAINST THE PROUD TAY MING!
ALARMED AT FU CHANG'S ABSENCE, TAY MING ENTERS THE DEN OF MAGIC..

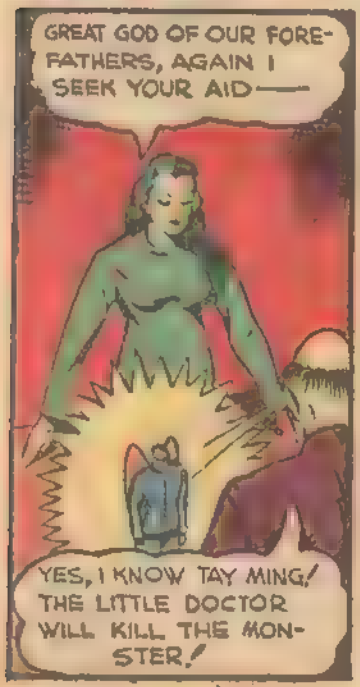
GOD OF OUR ANCESTORS, WHAT DANGERS THREATEN MY BELOVED?
GRAVE DANGERS, TAY MING! EVEN NOW JOODAR HAS HIM POWERLESS!
CAUSE THESE LITTLE MEN TO LIVE, THAT THEY MAY HELP ME!
ONCE AGAIN THE GOD RELEASES THE LIGHT OF LIFE!
LITTLE MEN OF MAGIC, AID TAY MING!
BUT AT THAT VERY INSTANT .....
OH HELP!
THE BLOWS OF THE CHESSMEN FAIL TO HALT THE MONSTER!
MEANWHILE
STRUGGLING DESPERATELY, FU CHANG MANAGES TO ESCAPE FROM HIS BONDS!
I MUST HURRY! ONE BITE FROM THE MONSTER MEANS INSTANT DEATH!

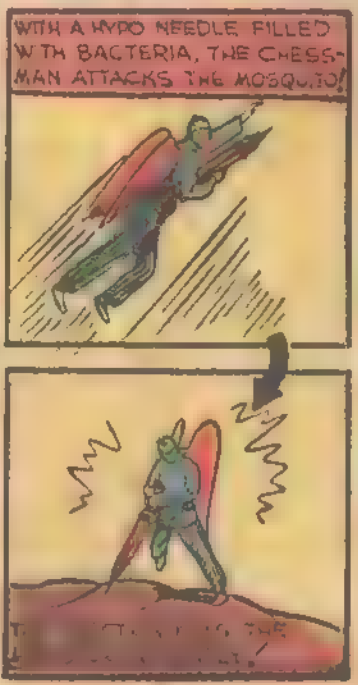

I CAN ELUDE THE THING NO LONGER!


THE CHESSMEN GRASP THE CURTAIN AND IMPRISON THE CREATURE BENEATH IT!


TAY MING! YOU ARE NOT HARMED?
NOT YET, FU CHANG!


THEY HURRY TO FU CHANG'S LABORATORY!
HAVE TRIED, BUT I CANNOT KILL IT! GO! ASK THE AID OF OUR GOD!


GREAT GOD OF OUR FOREFATHERS, AGAIN I SEEK YOUR AID——
YES, I KNOW TAY MING! THE LITTLE DOCTOR WILL KILL THE MONSTER!


WITH A HYPO NEEDLE FILLED WITH BACTERIA, THE CHESSMAN ATTACKS THE MOSQUITO!

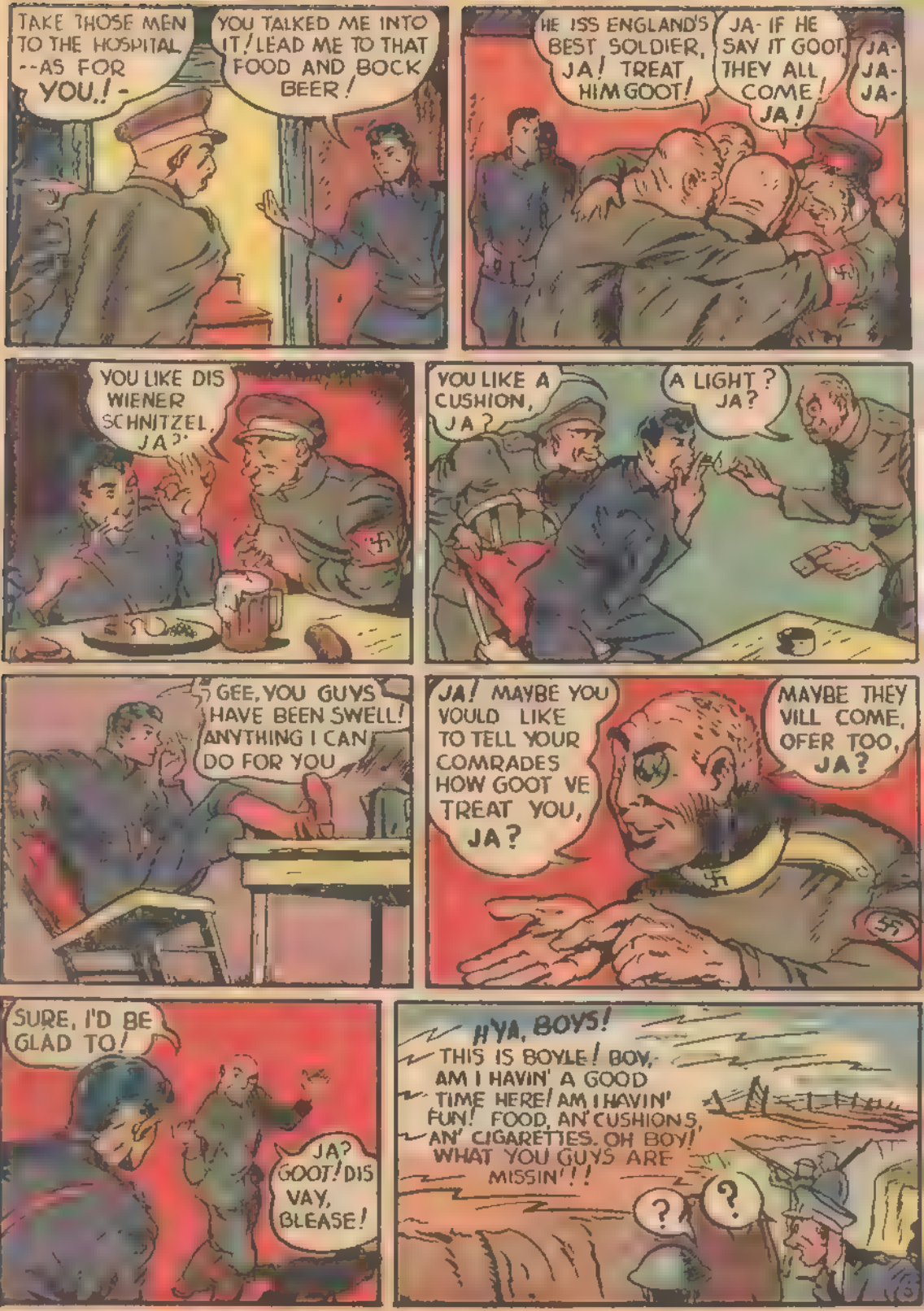
CONFUCIOUS SAY! "BUG NOT SO BAD AS WHEN NOT IN BONNET OF MAD INVENTOR!"
FU CHANG LEAVES HIS BELOVED CHINATOWN TO FIND ADVENTURE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD — IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS

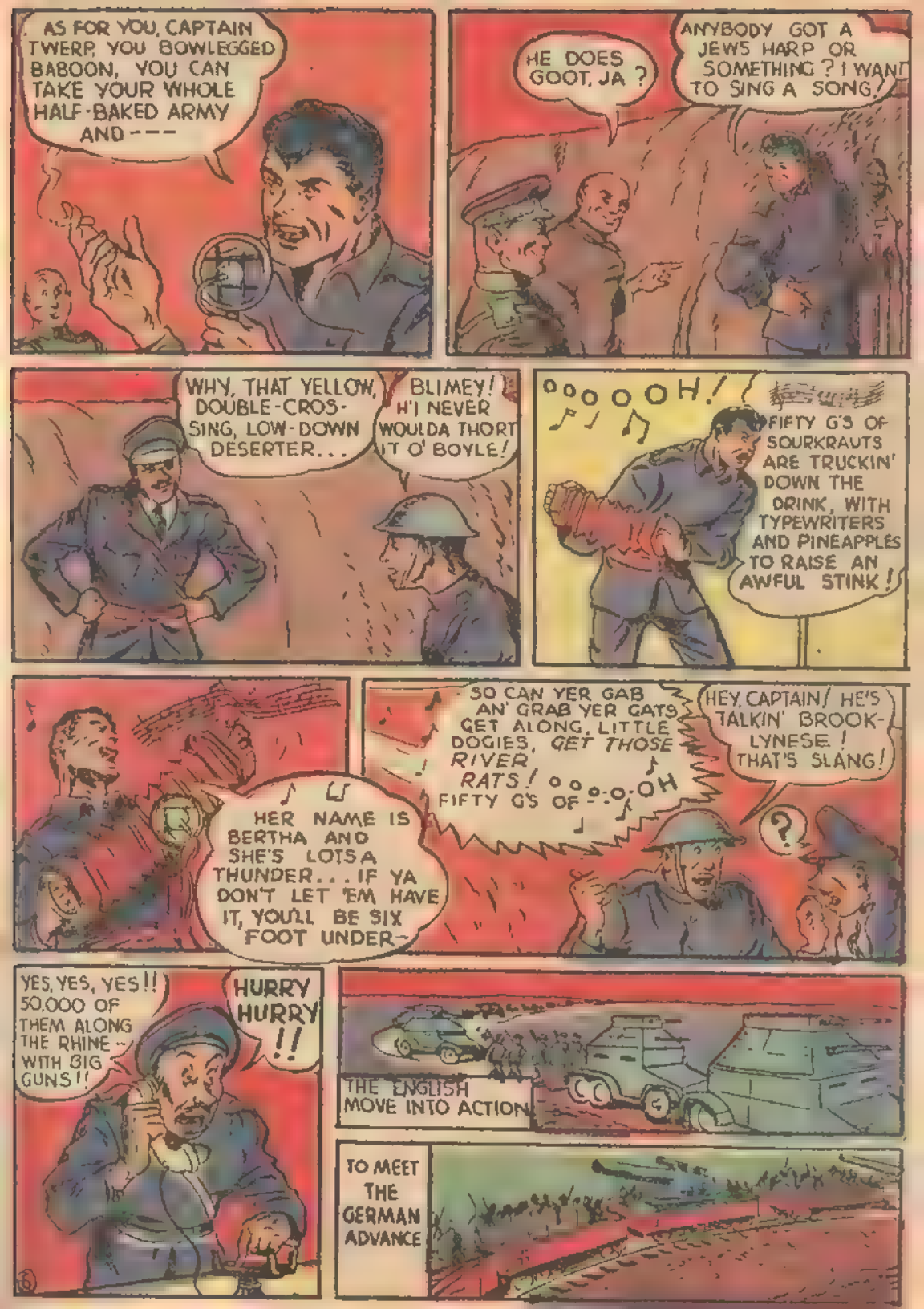
SERGEANT BOYLE
by BIRO and SUNDELL
SERGEANT BOYLE IS AN AMERICAN HERO WHO HAS SERVED IN THE ARMY THROUGHOUT THE WAR. IN SPITE OF HIS CLAIM THAT HE HAS FAILED TO REALLY DISLIKE EVERY BRITISH SOLDIER AND THE ENTIRE GERMAN !!
SLUSH, MUD, RAIN! AND THE MESS WAGON IS A DAY LATE, GETTING HERE.
THEM 'EINIES OVER THERE HAINT SO WRONG!
WE ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES.... YOUR ENEMY IS THAT OLD MAN WITH THE UMBRELLA! HOW WOULD HE LIKE TO STAND OUT IN THIS RAIN....? GIVE YOURSELVES UP! WE HAVE SHELTER AND HOT FOOD AWAITING YOU. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE SOME NICE WIENERSCHNITZEL AND BOCK BEER?
SNAP TO IT, BOYS, AND KEEP AWAKE THERE
?
PHRRT!

HI WAS JUST BLOWIN' ME NOSE CAPTAIN TWERP
YEAH? WELL, O.K., BUT IT SOUNDED KINDA LOUD
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TWERP?
LISTEN, BOYLE THAT GERMAN PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS BREAKING DOWN THE MORALE OF OUR MEN!
O.K.-I GET IT! YOU WANT ME TO SKIP OVER THERE AND SHUT 'EM UP! NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO GO! THE FRONT'S QUIET DURING THE RAIN.
WAIT A MINUTE SERGEANT.. DON'T YOU WANT YOUR SQUAD?
NO- I'LL SLIP THROUGH EASIER ALONE. SO LONG!
H'M M- STOPPED RAINING!
WOW! THAT POOR LIMEY! FIVE MESSERSCHMIDTS ON HIS TAIL! HE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
HE'S PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT! -OH-OH! RAIN'S OVER, FIREWORKS ARE STARTING!
ZING
ZING
BOY! THEY MEAN BUSINESS
2

ENGLISH FRIENDS! WE OFFER YOU PEACE AND SECURITY, QUIET AND REST, AND PLENTY OF FOOD--- LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS!
HO-HO!! THAT'S A LAUGH PEACE! LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!!
CRASH
THEY GOT HIM, POOR DUCK, MAYBE HE'S STILL ALIVE-
C'MON, BOY, YOU'LL SOON BE GOOD AS NEW!
NO-I'M DONE FOR-- AN ENGLISHMAN, THANK HEAVEN... GET THIS MESSAGE TO HEADQUARTERS --FIFTY THOUSAND GERMANS ARE ADVANCING ON THE RHINE -- WITH NAVY GUNS - UGH ON FLAT CARS - UGH-- CHEERIO!
TOO BAD! WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET THIS MESSAGE THROUGH, BUT IT'S SUICIDE TO TRY TO GO BACK THROUGH THAT HELL-FIRE!
MACH SCHNELL!
HERE COME THE VULTURES. IF HE WEREN'T DEAD THEY'D FINISH HIM... ..THEY WERE BARKING TO GIVE OURSELVES UP. THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!

LOOK! AN ENGLISHER!
H'YA BOYS—KEEP YOUR SHIRTS ON. I'M GIVING MYSELF UP--LEAD ME TO THAT PEACE AND QUIET!
WE KILL!
HEY! LET'S TALK THIS OVER. I WANT THEM WEINER SCHNITZELS
OOF
UGH!
NOW I CAN EX-PLAIN-- I'M YOUR PRISONER.
IT WAS A TOUGH FIGHT, BUT THEY FINALLY GOT ME!
BLAH BLAH FOOD BLAH
IT'S DOT BOYLE

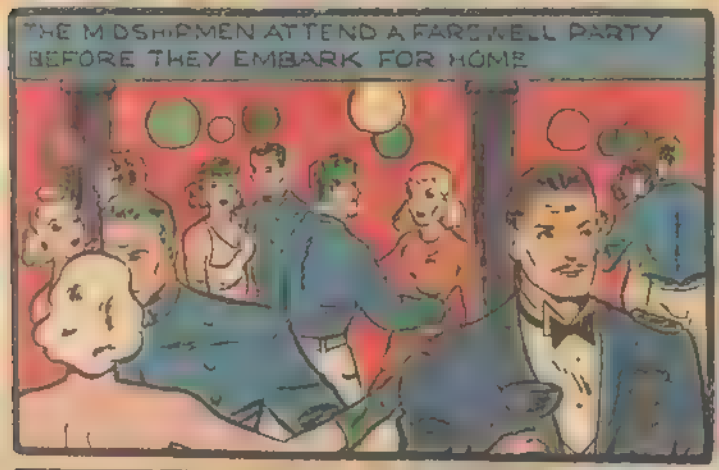

TAKE THOSE MEN TO THE HOSPITAL --AS FOR YOU!-
YOU TALKED ME INTO IT! LEAD ME TO THAT FOOD AND BOCK BEER!
HE ISS ENGLAND'S BEST SOLDIER, JA! TREAT HIM GOOT!
JA- IF HE SAV IT GOOT THEY ALL COME! JA!
JA- JA- JA-
YOU LIKE DIS WIENER SCHNITZEL, JA?
YOU LIKE A CUSHION, JA?
A LIGHT? JA?
GEE, YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN SWELL! ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU
JA! MAYBE YOU VOULD LIKE TO TELL YOUR COMRADES HOW GOOT VE TREAT YOU, JA?
MAYBE THEY VILL COME, OFER TOO, JA?
SURE, I'D BE GLAD TO!
JA? GOOT! DIS VAY, BLEASE!
HYA, BOYS!
THIS IS BOYLE! BOY, AM I HAVIN' A GOOD TIME HERE! AM I HAVIN' FUN! FOOD, AN' CUSHIONS, AN' CIGARETTES. OH BOY! WHAT YOU GUYS ARE MISSIN'!!
?
?

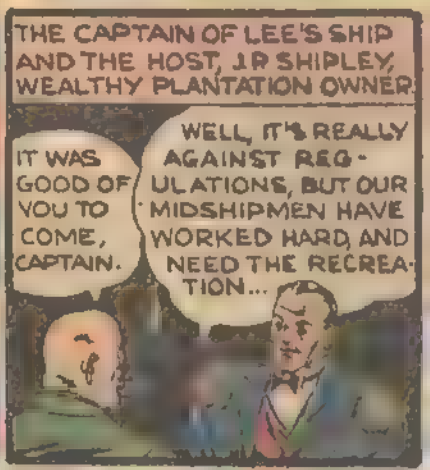

AS FOR YOU, CAPTAIN TWERP, YOU BOWLEGGED BABOON, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR WHOLE HALF-BAKED ARMY AND---
HE DOES GOOT, JA ?
ANYBODY GOT A JEW'S HARP OR SOMETHING ? I WANT TO SING A SONG!
WHY, THAT YELLOW, DOUBLE-CROSSING, LOW-DOWN DESERTER...
BLIMEY! H'I NEVER WOULDA THORT IT O' BOYLE!
OOOOOH!
FIFTY G'S OF SOURKRAUTS ARE TRUCKIN' DOWN THE DRINK, WITH TYPEWRITERS AND PINEAPPLES TO RAISE AN AWFUL STINK!
HER NAME IS BERTHA AND SHE'S LOTSA THUNDER... IF YA DON'T LET 'EM HAVE IT, YOU'LL BE SIX FOOT UNDER-
SO CAN YER GAB AN' GRAB YER GATS GET ALONG, LITTLE DOGIES, GET THOSE RIVER RATS! OOOOOH FIFTY G'S OF
HEY, CAPTAIN! HE'S TALKIN' BROOKLYNESE! THAT'S SLANG!
?
YES, YES, YES!! 50,000 OF THEM ALONG THE RHINE -- WITH BIG GUNS!!
HURRY HURRY !!
THE ENGLISH MOVE INTO ACTION
TO MEET THE GERMAN ADVANCE

OUR ENTIRE ARMY IS IN FULL RETREAT. SOMEONE MUST HAVE TOLD THE BRITISH OF OUR PLANS!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-
BOOM
WE WERE FOOLS! SHTOP HIM!
FIFTY G'S OF SOUR KRAUTS-
SLAM
?
OH-OH!
YOU PLAY THIS A WHILE!
STATION B-O-Y-L-E- SIGNING OFF!
?
SOME BODY SHOOT HIM, QVICK!
I ALMOST FORGOT! THIS IS WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO!
ACH!
BOOM
HIMMEL
DON'T SHOOT! IT'S ME! BOYLE!
YEA! BOYS, 'ERE 'E COMES!
YOU DID A SWELL JOB, BOYLE. I'LL SEE THAT YOURE DECORATED
COME ON, TWERP - WHAT ARE YOU SO GLUM ABOUT? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME BACK?
YES, I'M GLAD. BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CALL ME A BOW-LEGGED BABOON!
THERE'S MORE OF SERGEANT BOYLE IN NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS

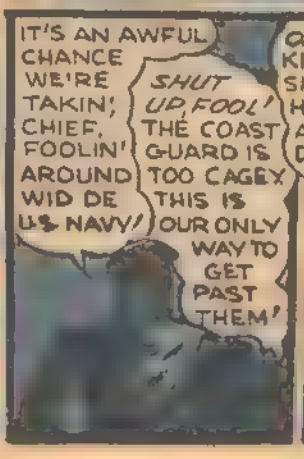
MIDSHIPMAN

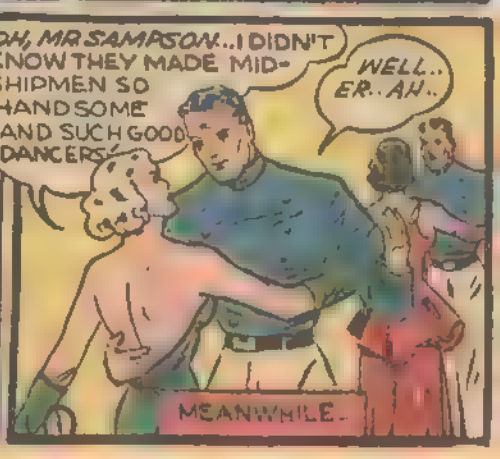
MIDSHIPMAN LEE SAMPSON IS STILL CRUISING WITH THE U.S. NAVY DURING THE SUMMER MANEUVERS FOR THE MIDSHIPMEN OF ANNAPOLIS...THE BATTLESHIP IS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO RIGHT OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA..


THE MIDSHIPMEN ATTEND A FAREWELL PARTY BEFORE THEY EMBARK FOR HOME


THE CAPTAIN OF LEE'S SHIP AND THE HOST, J.R. SHIPLEY, WEALTHY PLANTATION OWNER
IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO COME, CAPTAIN.
WELL, IT'S REALLY AGAINST REGULATIONS, BUT OUR MIDSHIPMEN HAVE WORKED HARD AND NEED THE RECREATION...

LATER.. IN THE GARDEN..
EVERYTHING IS SET.. NO SLIP-UPS NOW!
LEAVE IT TO US, CHIEF!


IT'S AN AWFUL CHANCE WE'RE TAKIN', CHIEF, FOOLIN' AROUND WID DE U.S. NAVY!
SHUT UP, FOOL! THE COAST GUARD IS TOO CAGEY THIS IS OUR ONLY WAY TO GET PAST THEM!


OH, MR SAMPSON...I DIDN'T KNOW THEY MADE MIDSHIPMEN SO HANDSOME AND SUCH GOOD DANCERS!
WELL.. ER.. AH..
MEANWHILE..

YOU ARE WANTED OUT IN THE GARDEN, SIR...
WILL YOU EXCUSE ME, MISS?
CERTAINLY!
OH LOOK! THE CAPTAIN IS GOING OUT IN THE GARDEN...I COULD ENJOY A WALK, MYSELF!
LET'S GO!
THE CAPTAIN IS ATTACKED
HERE, HERE!
GET HIM!
JUST THEN, MIDSHIPMAN SAMPSON APPROACHES.
LOOK! THE CAPTAIN IS IN TROUBLE!
OH!
LEE COMES TO THE RESCUE...
MIND IF I JOIN THE PARTY?
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
LEE THRASHES THE THUGS IN SUPERB FASHION...
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOU TO SINK THE NAVY!
SUDDENLY LEE IS OVER-COME FROM BEHIND..

AS LEE LIES UNCONSCIOUS THE THUGS RECOVER . . .
WOT'LL WE DO WIT DE DAME, BOSS?
TAKE HER ALONG, OR ELSE SHE'LL TALK!
THE SMUGGLERS SPEED OFF IN TWO CARS WITH THE CAPTAIN, LEE AND THE GIRL
THEY SOON REACH THEIR DESTINATION
'DERE'S OUR BOAT WAITIN' FER US!
THE 3 PRISONERS ARE TAKEN ABOARD THE SMUGGLERS BOAT.
YOU'LL NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS!
SHUT UP!
THE PRISONERS ARE STOWED IN THE HOLD.
WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH US?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
THE SMUGGLERS' BOAT IS MET BY ANOTHER BOAT BEYOND THE 3 MILE LIMIT. . . . . .
EVERYTHING'S WORKIN' OUT FINE.
YEAH! NOW WE GOTTA TAKE THAT LOAD OF ORIENTALS OFF AND WE'RE ALL SET!
C'MON YOU ORIENTALS— MAKE IT SNAPPY!
THE CARGO OF SMUGGLED ORIENTALS IS QUICKLY TRANSFERRED. . .
WHO IS THE FIREFLY????

THE SMUGGLERS SOON MAKE THE RUN BACK TO SHORE
GET THE CAPTAIN UP HERE IN A HURRY.
OKAY!
THE CAPTAIN IS IMMEDIATELY FETCHED ON DECK
HERE'S WHERE YOU FIT INTO DE PICTURE, CAPTAIN... WE'RE USIN' YOU FOR A FRONT WHEN DE COASTIES COME UP TO US DEY ALL KNOW YOU.
AN' NO FUNNY BUSINESS CAP—
YOU'RE GOIN' TO TELL DEM WE'RE A COUPLE OF FRIENDS OF YOURS. ONE SLIP AND YOU'LL NEVER SEE DAYLIGHT AGAIN.
YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME! I WON'T DO IT!
OKAY! DEN WE RUB OUT DE DAME AND DE OTHER SAILOR BOY!
Y. . YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT IT'S. . ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!
JUST THEN, LEE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS. . . . .
WHERE AM I?. .WHAT
OH LEE! WE'RE PRISONERS ON THIS BOAT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THIS BOTTLE GIVES ME AN IDEA!
AS THE COAST GUARD DRAWS ALONG SIDE, THE CAPTAIN IS BROUGHT TO THE FORE.
STAND BY FOR BOARDING!
IT. IT'S ALL RIGHT THERE. THESE ARE JUST FRIENDS OF MINE. WE... WE'RE JUST HAVING A LITTLE PARTY!

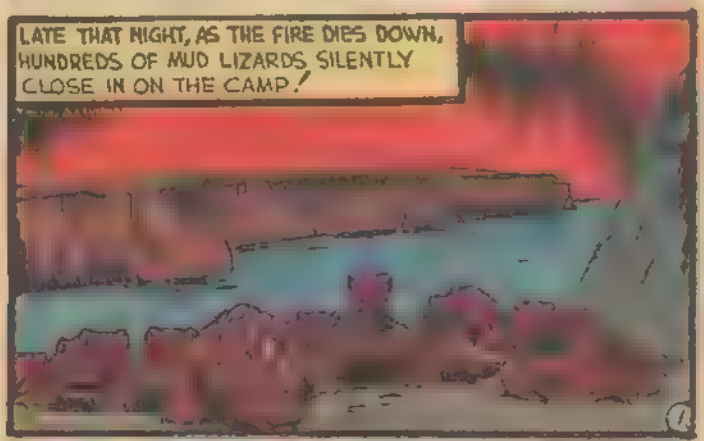
THE COAST GUARD RECOGNIZES CAPTAIN WRIGLEY. . . . . .
WHY, IT'S YOU-SIR I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH YOU FOR CONTRABAND. HA, HA!
AS THE COAST GUARD LEAVES
WE SURE PULLED A FAST ONE ON DEM COASTIES EH?
YEAH-NOW TO HEAD FOR NEW ORLEANS.
MEANWHILE, MIDSHIPMAN SAMPSON STRUGGLES TO CUT AWAY HIS BONDS. . .
THIS BROKEN BOTTLE WAS A LIFE-SAVER - I'LL BE FREE IN A MINUTE.
WHOOPS-LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY-- I'LL DUCK!
BUT AS LEE STARTS TO FREE THE GIRL, FOOT-STEPS APPROACH. . .
A THUG ENTERS -- --
HEY, DE SAILOR BOY'S GONE!
NOT YET--I'VE BEEN SAVING SOMETHING FOR YOU.
HUH?
THE THUG DRAWS A KNIFE. . . . . .
WHY YOU DIRTY-
HE LUNGES AT LEE, WHO SIDESTEPS - - -
YOU'RE A LITTLE OFF IN YOUR TIMING.
I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN NO TIME! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE CAPTAIN.

LET'S T'ROW HIM IN DE DRINK!
SO IT'S YOU-SHIPLEY-YOU'RE BEHIND ALL THIS
QUITE SO CAPTAIN WRIGLEY, BUT YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL OF IT!
MEANWHILE—UP ON DECK
GREAT SCOT! IT'S SAMPSON! HOW DID HE GET LOOSE?
BE CAREFUL, MR. SAMPSON
LEE WADES INTO THE THUGS WITH THE FURY OF A MAD TIGER . . . .
THAT'S TWO!
A-A-AH
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, SAILOR BOY.
THE SMUGGLERS DARE NOT SHOOT AT SAMPSON FOR FEAR OF ATTRACTING THE COAST GUARD . . .
LEE GRABS THE 3RD THUG AND REACHES FOR HIS GUN . . .
MIND IF I BORROW THIS--AS LONG AS YOU AREN'T GOING TO DO ANY SHOOTING.
OW!
BANG
BANG
HOLY JEEPERS! HERE COMES DE COASTIES!
LET'S BEAT IT!
BUT THE COAST GUARD CAPTURES THE FLEEING SMUGGLERS . . .
GOOD WORK CAPTAIN—SHIPLEY IS THEIR LEADER.
WHAT! NO WONDER THEY'VE BEEN GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER!
NEXT DAY—CAPTAIN WRIGLEY EXPLAINS TO LEE
THAT'S WHY SHIPLEY WAS SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE US COME TO HIS PARTY.
IT CERTAINLY WAS A CLEVER PLAN--SIR.
THE CRUISE IS OVER AND THE MIDSHIPMEN RETURN TO THE ACADEMY. DON'T FAIL TO FOLLOW THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF LEE SAMPSON, THE MIDSHIPMAN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
PEP COMICS

THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

THE ROCKET AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, WITH THE AID OF PRINCE FALKAR AND A FEW OF HIS LOYAL MEN, FLEE FROM THE MURDEROUS QUEEN ABBIE. WITH THE QUEEN'S MEN IN CLOSE PURSUIT, THEY SEEK SAFETY BY HIDING IN THE DARK FOREST WHICH BORDERS THE HAWK KINGDOM!

THE PARTY PLANS A WAY OF RETURNING TO THE DIAMOND EMPIRE!
WE WILL RETURN WITH MY SOLDIERS, FALKAR, AND DRIVE ABBIE FROM YOUR THRONE!
GOOD, THE PEOPLE WILL RISE AGAINST HER WHEN I RETURN WITH AN ARMY!



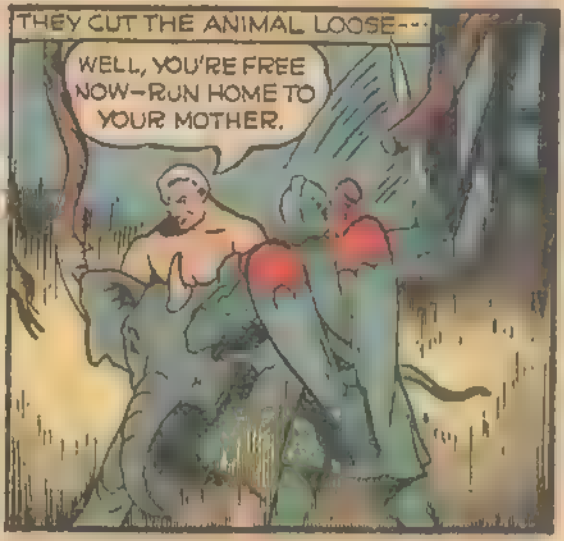
SUDDENLY, THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS IS WAKED BY A STRANGE HISSING NOISE. . . . .
OOH!
HELP! ROCKET!!
HORRIFIED, THE QUEEN TRIES TO FLEE!!
MY ARM! OH!
CAREFUL! WE'RE COMING!!
RUN! RUN FOR A TREE— THERE ARE TOO MANY TO FIGHT. .
DESPERATELY, THE ROCKET AND FALKAR'S MEN FIGHT OFF THE LIZARDS WITH THE REMAINS OF THEIR CAMP FIRE
QUICK, UP INTO THE TREES—THEY CAN'T CLIMB!
THANK GOODNESS WE'RE SAFE. THOSE BEASTS HAVE FANGS LIKE SNAKES!
POISONOUS FANGS! THEIR BITE MEANS SLOW DEATH! A HORRIBLE DEATH!
IT IS NOT UNTIL THAT MOMENT THAT THE ROCKET REALIZES—
YOUR ARM! THAT LIZARD BIT YOU! WE HAVEN'T A SECOND TO LOSE!
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE. MY DOCTOR, IN THE DIAMOND EMPIRE, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE CURE!
PERHAPS IF I SUCK THE POISON OUT AND APPLY A TOURNIQUET, I'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THE POISON!
2

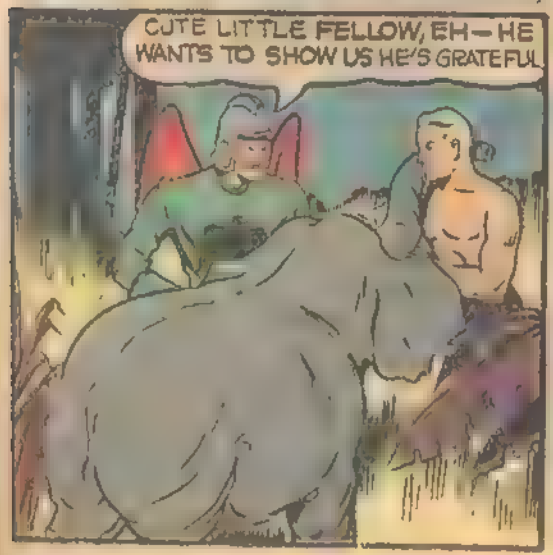
WITH THE POISON STOPPED MOMENTARILY, THEY SET OUT FOR THE DIAMOND EMPIRE
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! THE QUEEN IS FAILING FAST!

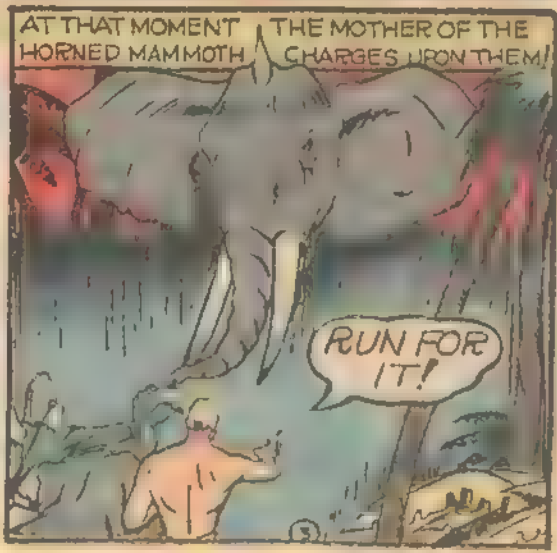
ALL NIGHT AND ALL DAY, THEY CHOP THEIR WAY THRU THE THICK JUNGLES
WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE THE EMPIRE AT THIS RATE

WHEN SUDDENLY THE ROCKET IS STARTLED BY A WEIRD CRY.
WHAT WAS THAT?

LOOK—A BABY HORNED MAMMOTH!
POOR CREATURE, IT'S BEING STRANGLED BY THAT VINE. MAYBE WE CAN HELP IT!


THEY CUT THE ANIMAL LOOSE---
WELL, YOU'RE FREE NOW—RUN HOME TO YOUR MOTHER.


CUTE LITTLE FELLOW, EH—HE WANTS TO SHOW US HE'S GRATEFUL


AT THAT MOMENT HORNED MAMMOTH
THE MOTHER OF THE CHARGES UPON THEM!
RUN FOR IT!

THE ROCKET DASHES AWAY TO DRAW THE MONSTER FROM HIS FRIENDS
THAT'S GRATITUDE- AND AFTER SAVING HER BABY, TOO!
UH-UH, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT ME!
THE HORNED MAMMOTH SWINGS THE ROCKET ALOFT
AND SEATS HIM GENTLY ON THE BACK OF HER HEAD!
WHEW- MAYBE THIS IS THE MAMMOTH'S WAY OF THANKING ME FOR SAVING HER CUB.
THIS HORNED MAMMOTH WILL COME IN HANDY! SHE MAY BE ABLE TO CLEAR THE JUNGLE FOR US, SO WE CAN MAKE BETTER TIME GETTING BACK TO THE DIAMOND EMPIRE!
THE ROCKET LEADS THE AN MAL BACK TO HIS PARTY!
LOOK, MEN, WE HAVE A FRIEND TO HELP US!
GOOD, BUT CAN YOU MAKE HER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANT HER TO DO?
I CAN TRY- MAYBE IF WE SHOW HER SHE'LL LEARN - GRAB A TREE TRUNK AND START TUGGING!
THE MONSTER GETS THE IDEA IMMEDIATELY . SHE TEARS A WIDE SWATH THROUGH THE JUNGLE - AND THE PARTY FOLLOWS AFTER HER
WE'RE MOVING FASTER, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH!
THE QUEEN CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER- WE'LL *HAVE* TO RISK FLYING WITH HER- ABBIE'S KILLERS MAY STILL SPOT US - AND IF THEY DO, THEY'LL KILL HER- BUT IF WE DON'T CHANCE IT, SHE'LL DIE ANYWAY!

WATCH FOR THE MASTER OF MYSTERY ···· *THE FIREFLY!!*

LUCK IS WITH THEM... THEY ESCAPE THE DETECTION OF QUEEN ABBIE'S MEN. . AND IN A SHORT WHILE THEY ARE OVER THE DIAMOND EMPIRE!

LOOK! HAWKMEN! WITH THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS — GRAB THEM WHEN THEY LAND — RETLEK, THE TERRIBLE, WILL BE GLAD TO SEE THEM!

THE QUEEN IS CARRIED BEFORE THE THRONE OF RETLEK, THE TERRIBLE ... .

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE EX-QUEEN OF DIAMONDS?

SHE NEEDS THE IMMEDIATE AID OF HER DOCTOR!

SO—SHE COMES BACK— SHE THOUGHT THE ROCKET HAD DISPOSED OF ME, BUT SHE WAS WRONG! SHE LEFT HER EMPIRE FOR TOO LONG, AND NOW I AM THE KING! BUT WORRY NOT, SHE SHALL NOT DIE. MY RULE WILL BE MUCH STRONGER WHEN SHE IS MY WIFE.... AND SLAVE!

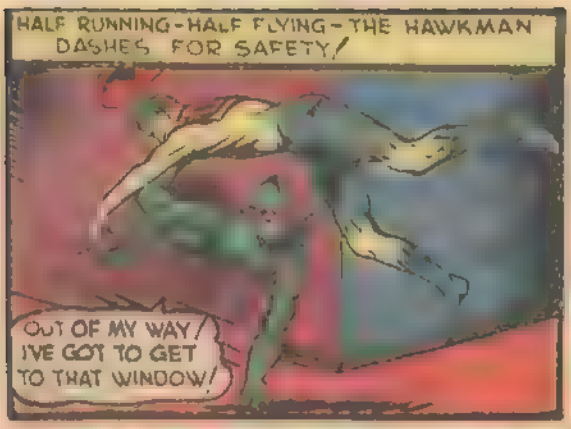
TAKE HER TO HER DOCTOR—AND THROW THOSE HAWKMEN INTO THE DUNGEONS!

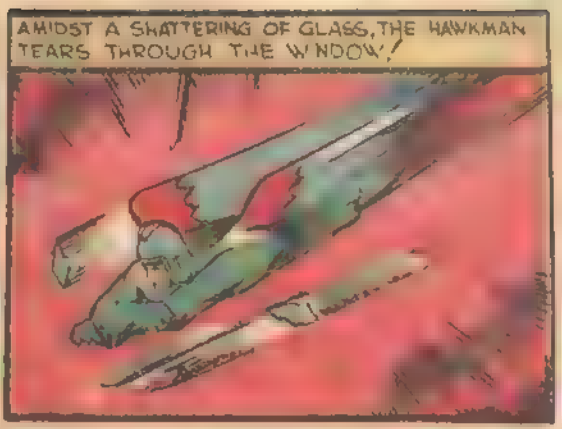
RATHER WOULD WE DIE FIGHTING THAN BE TAKEN PRISONER!

THE HAWKMAN TURNS

SEIZE HIM!

FALKAR, MY KING, SHALL HEAR OF THIS!


HALF RUNNING-HALF FLYING-THE HAWKMAN DASHES FOR SAFETY!
OUT OF MY WAY! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT WINDOW!

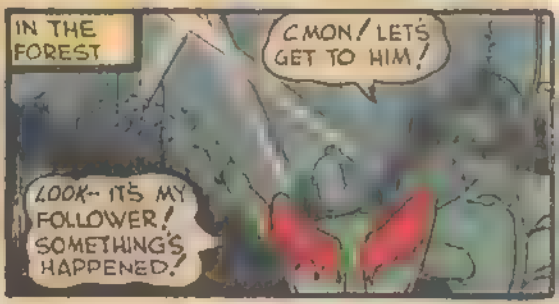

AMIDST A SHATTERING OF GLASS, THE HAWKMAN TEARS THROUGH THE WINDOW!

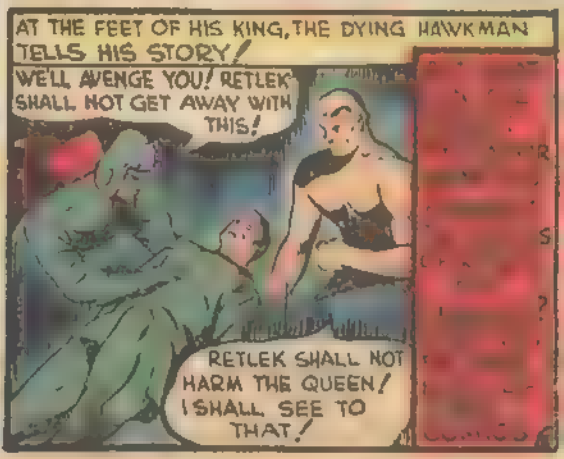
TRAIN THE LIGHTS ON HIM AND BRING HIM DOWN!

THE HAWKMAN HEADS FOR THE DARK FOREST!

BLINDED BY THE POWERFUL LIGHTS, HE FLYS BLINDLY ALONG, UNTIL
UGH! IT GOT ME!

WOUNDED, HE PLUMMETS DOWNWARD!


IN THE FOREST
C'MON! LET'S GET TO HIM!
LOOK- IT'S MY FOLLOWER! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!


AT THE FEET OF HIS KING, THE DYING HAWKMAN TELLS HIS STORY!
WE'LL AVENGE YOU! RETLEK SHALL NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS!
RETLEK SHALL NOT HARM THE QUEEN! I SHALL SEE TO THAT!

A MYSTERY of the SECRET SERVICE

THE Secret Service of the United States now has only two duties. One is to guard the life of the Nation's Chief Executive and the other to detect and prosecute crimes against the currency. All other Federal infractions are handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation which is an off-shoot of the earlier Department of Justice. This arrangement, one which promotes efficiency, is quite recent.

Time was when the Secret Service had multiple duties, sometimes even being assigned to aid the Treasury Department sleuths in rounding up Southern moonshiners. Secret Service men in those days had a wide and divergent experience. Such a pioneer sleuth was Charles William Walker, whose murder in the wilds of the mountains of Southern Colorado has never been solved.

Capt. Walker was chief of the Secret Service for a number of years in Chicago where he was assigned from Washington. In Washington he had been an operative. He won promotion by extraordinarily brave and efficient service. Later he was assigned as chief of the Service in the Northern District of the Mountain States, with headquarters in Denver.

Capt. Walker took a vacation one summer. He rode horseback through the mountains of Southern Colorado. He was found shot to death beside his horse—the animal half famished. The scene of assassination was a wild spot in the rugged crags near the gold mining camp of Telluride. Here rainbow trout fishing abounded and it was reported that the fishing had been the lure that took Capt. Walker into the mountain wilds. By others it was hinted that Walker was investigating land frauds alleged to have been perpetrated by mining companies. No substantiation of this version was forthcoming.

The district was one too isolated for most types of crime although it might have hidden a criminal band's hide-out. No trace of the murderer or murderers was ever found. It is possible that Walker rode accidentally into or near some criminal lair. If so it must have been that the crooks either knew or had reason to suspect his identity.

It is possible, too, that some assassin or band of assassins followed him from the East and were waiting for just such an opportunity to put an end to his career as a menace to evil-doers. His record was so excellent and his work so outstanding that when he died department chiefs in Washington referred to his passing as "a heavy and bitter loss to the service."

WATCH FOR
THE RANG-A-TANG CLUB
AND THE RANG-A-TANG HONOR LEGION
EVERY MONTH IN
BLUE RIBBON COMICS

BEWARE! THE FIREFLY IS COMING!

THE *Secret* OF THE SHIELD *Revealed!*

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THE HISTORICAL STORY OF **THE WIZARD** IS TOLD ——

WATCH FOR IT AT YOUR NEWSSTAND!!

KAYO WARD
BOY - COULD I GO FOR HIM! WHAT A MAN!
CHICAGO
SORRY, BABE, NO TIME FOR THAT NOW - I'M GOING TO THE WARD-LOUIS FIGHT!
BOB WOOD -
TH' HECK WITH MY DEADLINE - I CAN'T MISS TH' WARD-LOUIS FIGHT!
NEW YORK
NUTS TO YOU - I WANT A MAN-LIKE KAYO WARD!
NEW ORLEANS
YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL OFF THE CABINET MEETING - I'VE GOT TO GET TO NEW YORK FOR THE WARD-LOUIS FIGHT -
WASHINGTON.
IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE -
THE DAY BEFORE HIS TITLE BOUT
—AND THERE'S THE BELL - THE FIGHT IS ON!
WARD IS FORCING THE FIGHT - BUT NOT DOING MUCH DAMAGE - AND THERE'S LOUIS WITH A HARD LEFT - AND ANOTHER - AND ANOTHER - KAYO LOOKS A LITTLE TIRED - BUT THERE'S A RIGHT TO LOUIS' MID-SECTION -
AND WARD KEEPS WADING IN - LOUIS IS VERY CAUTIOUS - HE SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR AN OPENING -
WARD LETS GO WITH A ROUND HOUSE RIGHT - BUT MISSES - LEAVING HIMSELF WIDE OPEN
SWISH
1
LOUIS IS QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE - A POWERFUL LEFT ROCKS KAYO.

AS KAYO REELS FROM THE STAGGERING BLOW-LOUIS CATCHES HIM WITH A MURDEROUS RIGHT — WARD IS DOWN!

GOSH I-I CAN'T GET MY BEARINGS

SEVEN

EIGHT

BUT KAYO IS NOT THROUGH FOR THE EVENING - HE'S ON ONE KNEE TAKING THE COUNT - SEVEN — EIGHT — HE'S UP!

WARD COMES IN SWINGING MADLY - BUT IS WILD - LOUIS STEPS BACK!

WARD CONTINUES TO SWING WILDLY - LOUIS IS MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO HIT HIM!

THE REFEREE STOPS THE FIGHT TO ASK LOUIS WHY HE IS NOT HITTING BACK AT WARD —— LOUIS EXPLAINS.

CAN'T YO' SEE DAT MAN AM IN NO CONDITION T" FIGHT? AH CAN'T HIT HIM.

- AND THE FIGHT IS CALLED - BOTH FIGHTERS ARE GIVEN A TREMENDOUS OVATION - WARD FOR HIS COURAGEOUS FIGHTING — LOUIS FOR HIS FINE SPORTSMANSHIP. AND INCIDENTALLY DON'T FORGET TO VISIT YOUR NEAREST HADAM HAT SHOP SOON ETC...ETC.

SINCE THE LAST TUNNEY-DEMPSEY BOUT, NO FIGHT HAS CAUSED SO MUCH PUBLIC COMMENT.

FANS CLAMOR FOR RETURN WARD-LOUIS BOUT!

2

BUT

A RETURN MATCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. YOU'VE GOT TO STAY AWAY FROM THE RING FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.

AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION, THE DOCTOR REPORTS TO KAYO AND LEW

MEANWHILE - AT THE OFFICES OF STUPENDIX FILMS IN HOLLYWOOD —

HE'S A NATURAL, J.P. TALL - DARK AND HANDSOME - WE'LL CAST HIM WITH HEDY LA COO!

GOOD! HOP THE NEXT PLANE FOR NEW YORK!

TWO DAYS LATER AT KAYO'S APARTMENT IN NEW YORK, WE FIND STUPENDIX FILMS' REPRESENTATIVE.
J. JASPER TWIMBLEY MOVIE SCOUT, THATS ME - I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO HOLLYWOOD WE'LL MAKE YOU A STAR!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A STAR. I WANT A REST!
THAT'S JUST IT - YOU'LL HAVE A REST IN HOLLYWOOD SUNSHINE, FRESH A R, PEACE AND QUIET — ETC.
THE CALIFORNIA AIR WOULD DO YOU GOOD, KAYO.
ALL RIGHT, CONNIE, I'LL GO - BUT NO ACTING.
I'M GOING BACK TO-MORROW MAYBE WE CAN GO TOGETHER
HOW DOES THAT SUIT YOU LEW?
YOU GO, BUT NOT ME - I MANAGE PRIZE FIGHTERS - NOT CONVALESCENTS.
AND SO - J. JASPER TWIMBLEY AND KAYO SET FORTH FOR THE WEST COAST
HERE'S MY CARD - MR WARD. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT ACTING - GET IN TOUCH WITH ME.
OKAY.
THEY ARRIVE IN HOLLYWOOD
NOW TO FIND A NICE, QUIET SPOT TO REST.
KAYO GRABS A NEARBY CAB
TAKE ME TO A QUIET HOTEL WHERE I KIN REST.
HAW HAW - WHATTA LAUGH - REST IN THIS BURG!
LEAVE MY BAG AT THE DESK, DRIVER - LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE UP AHEAD
HELP! I'M BEING KIDNAPPED!
BUT AS KAYO'S CAB PULLS UP AT A HOTEL -
QUIET, BABE!

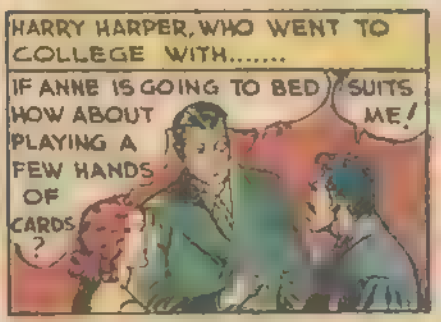
HEY
KAYO RUSHES TO THE SCENE AND WADES INTO THE KIDNAPPERS.
B-BUT MISTER —oooooo.
THE KIDNAPPERS FLEE!
FOOL-PEEG-YOU RUIN MY PUBLICITY STUNT!
I COULD SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT— YOU BEAST!
OUCH! LEGGO.
WHERE I COME FROM WHEN GALS ACT LIKE THAT—
HAW HAW
—WE SPANK 'EM!
IT'S RUPY LA VEZ! HA, HA!
Oooow HELP
RUPY 'AY' NEVAIR BE ZOO EMBARASS-YOU WILL BE SORRY FOR THIS!
S'LONG—I HOPE THAT TAUGHT YOU A LESSON!
SO THIS IS HOLLYWOOD— I'LL TAKE THE BRONX!
REACH FER DE SKY, BUDDY!
HUH!
SO-ANOTHER PUBLICITY STUNT— WELL, I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN THIS TIME!
4

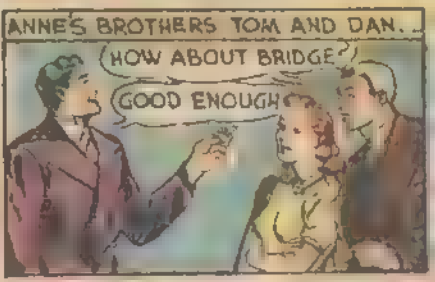
HULLY CHEESE!
!
HERE, LEMME HELP YOU!!
HEY — GIVE ME BACK MY WALLET!
NUTS! I'M WISE TO THESE PUBLICITY STUNTS!
AN OFFICER ARRIVES UPON THE SCENE.
HEY! WHAT IS THIS A STICKUP?
NAW — IT'S JUST A PUBLICITY STUNT!
BUT I TELL YOU - I'M MORTIMER J. GINSBURG MOVIE PRODUCER — THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE GAGS LATELY - I ORTA RUN YOU ALL IN BUT I WON'T!
C'MON - BREAK IT UP, BOYS! THIS IS A PUBLIC STREET.
B-BUT..
SO LONG SHORTY - YOU TAKE THE WALLET.
THANX PAL!
NEXT DAY, RUPY'S PUBLICITY MAN CALLS UPON HER.
YOU'RE A FOOL, RUPY, TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT!
AH-BUT ZAT MAN HE HAS SOMETHING THAT RUPY LIKE
LET ME ZEE ZAT PAPAIR!
KAYO WARD GIVES RUPY LA VEZ SPANKING ON VINE STREET - WILL SHE SUE?
SO, MEESTAIR KAYO WARD EEZ STAYING AT ZEE 'OTEL BRADFORD, EH — 'ELLO, OPERATOR!
5

THIS IS KAYO WARD - WH-MISS LA VEZ? HUH?
DARLING, I MUST SEE YOU. IT IS VEREE IMPORTANT
MEET ME IN THE LOBBY IN 10 MINUTES GOOD BYE-
GULP- HUH!
AH,-WE MEET! THE ONLY MAN WHO EVER DARE SPANK RUPY.
I INSIST THAT MY PRODUCER MAKE YOU MY LEADING MAN!
BUT GOSH- I CAN'T ACT!
I HAVE JUST ZEE LEADING MAN FOR MY NEW PICTURE.
FINE, RUPY! THE PUBLIC IS HOLLERING FOR NEW FACES!
YOU THIEF!
GOSH, IT REALLY WAS A HOLD UP!
IF YOU WERE THE ONLY ACTOR IN HOLLYWOOD, I STILL WOULDN'T HIRE YOU! SCRAM
I AIN'T SO KEEN ON ACTIN' ANY-WAY!
IZAT SO— WE WILL SEE IF KAYO BE-COME AN ACTOR OR NOT.
EITHER MEESTAIR WARD HE MY LEADING MAN OR RUPY SHE SHOOT HER SELF DEAD!
RUPY RUSHES TO HER BAG AND DRAWS A GUN!
YES- SURE- ANY-THING YOU SAY, RUPY! I PROMISE! ONLY DONT KILL YOURSELF!
RUPY SHE ALWAYS GET HER WAY. THEES TIME SHE WEEL GET HER MAN!
I COULDN'T LET A LADY KILL HER-SELF.
SUCH A BUSINESS
AND SO KAYO SIGNS THE CONTRACT
6
DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF PEP COMICS
HE LIVES FOR MYSTERY ..... THE FIREFLY!!

BENTLEY
of SCOTLAND YARD
THE CASE OF THE CONGO-CURSE
by S. COOPER
ONE OF INSPECTOR BENTLEY'S MOST PUZZLING CASES OCCURRED WHEN JOHN MARTIN, THE FAMOUS EXPLORER, RETURNED FROM AFRICA AND INVITED FOUR OF HIS OLD FRIENDS TO HIS HOME FOR A WEEK-END PARTY.....

ANNE DOUGLAS, MARTIN'S CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART WHO IS ENGAGED TO.....
WE'VE HAD A GRAND WEEK-END, JOHN!
IT'S BEEN FUN FOR ME, TOO!


HARRY HARPER, WHO WENT TO COLLEGE WITH.....
IF ANNE IS GOING TO BED HOW ABOUT PLAYING A FEW HANDS OF CARDS?
SUITS ME!


ANNE'S BROTHERS TOM AND DAN..
HOW ABOUT BRIDGE?
GOOD ENOUGH

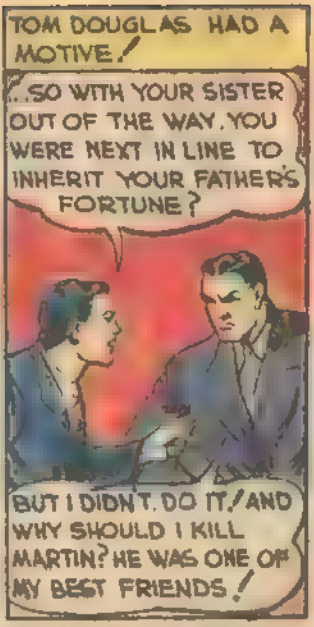
HAVE A NICE GAME! I'M TURNING IN!
GOODNIGHT, SIS!
PLEASANT DREAMS, MY DEAR!

IN HER ROOM, ANNE LIGHTS THE OIL LAMP!
DEAR JOHN/NEVER [redacted] FROM THE JUNGLE LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE THE HOUSE ELECTRICALLY WIRED.
AS THE MEN SETTLE DOWN TO THEIR GAME.....
WHAT WAS THE BID? TWO HEARTS?
THREE SPADES, HARRY! NEVER SAW YOU SO FORGETFUL!
SUDDENLY!
HELP! HELP! RATS! DEMONS FIRES! HELP!
ANNE'S UNHOLY SHRIEKS REND THE AIR!
THAT WAS ANNE! HURRY!
SOMETHING'S WRONG!
WE'RE COMING, SIS!
THE MEN BREAK INTO ANNE'S ROOM!
THAT ODOR! OPEN THE WINDOW!
ANNE! ANNE!
A MADMAN MUST HAVE BEEN IN HERE!
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! IT'S THE JUNGLE CURSE! I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!
SHE'S DEAD!
BENTLEY RECEIVES THE CALL AT SCOTLAND YARD!
YES, MR. MARTIN! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER! ALLOW NONE OF THE MEN TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT!

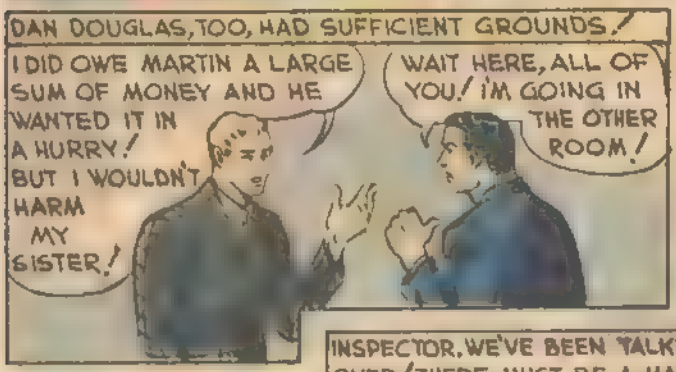
BEWARE...THE **FIREFLY** IS COMING!

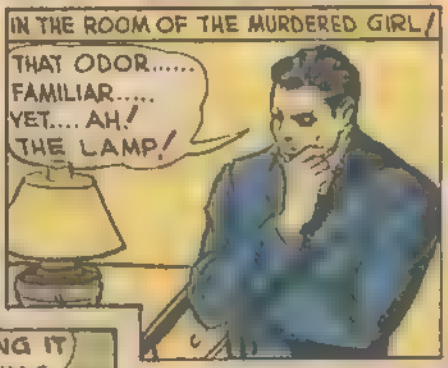
BENTLEY ARRIVES AT THE EXPLORER'S HOME!
SO YOU'RE HARRY HARPER? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
UPSTAIRS! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE!
AT THAT VERY INSTANT!
HELP! THE CURSE! DEMONS! FIRE! CONGO!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE MARTIN!
WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE!
AT THE DOOR TO MARTIN'S ROOM!
IT CAME FROM IN THERE!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED!
NO ONE EVER SAW THE INSIDE OF THAT ROOM BUT MARTIN!
HE KEEPS IT BOLTED ON THE INSIDE!
WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT IN!
ONE MORE HEAVE!
THAT DOES IT!
THAT ODOR! HMM! OPEN THE WINDOW!
THE ROOM IS A WRECK, JUST LIKE ANNE'S WAS!
MARTIN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A CONGO CURSE.... DO.. YOU.....

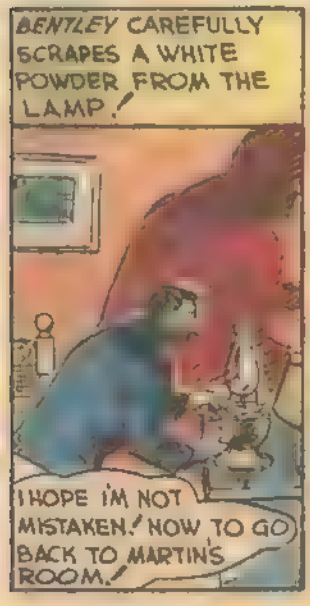
WELL. HE'S DEAD ENOUGH! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO QUESTION YOU GENTLEMEN A BIT! AND I WANT YOUR COOPERATION!


TOM DOUGLAS HAD A MOTIVE!
...SO WITH YOUR SISTER OUT OF THE WAY, YOU WERE NEXT IN LINE TO INHERIT YOUR FATHER'S FORTUNE?
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT! AND WHY SHOULD I KILL MARTIN? HE WAS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS!

HARRY HARPER MAY HAVE HAD A REASON!
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT I HATED MARTIN! BUT I WAS ENGAGED TO MARRY ANNE! I WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED HER!


DAN DOUGLAS, TOO, HAD SUFFICIENT GROUNDS!
I DID OWE MARTIN A LARGE SUM OF MONEY AND HE WANTED IT IN A HURRY! BUT I WOULDN'T HARM MY SISTER!
WAIT HERE, ALL OF YOU! I'M GOING IN THE OTHER ROOM!


IN THE ROOM OF THE MURDERED GIRL!
THAT ODOR..... FAMILIAR..... YET.... AH! THE LAMP!


BENTLEY CAREFULLY SCRAPES A WHITE POWDER FROM THE LAMP!
I HOPE I'M NOT MISTAKEN! NOW TO GO BACK TO MARTIN'S ROOM!

INSPECTOR, WE'VE BEEN TALKING IT OVER! THERE MUST BE A MANIAC IN THIS HOUSE!
YES! AND WE INSIST ON CALLING THE POLICE FOR PROTECTION!
JUST A MOMENT, GENTLEMEN!

MORE WHITE POWDER ON THIS LAMP! THAT JUST ABOUT PROVES.....

BENTLEY SELECTS A PRIMITIVE GOURD FROM A CASE!
UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, THIS CONTAINS.....
THE WHITE POWDER I FOUND ON THE LAMPS! THAT MEANS I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL!
THIS WHITE POWDER, GENTLEMEN, IS KNOWN AS THE CONGO CURSE! IT'S A RARE AFRICAN DRUG!
THAT'S WHAT MARTIN WAS RAVING ABOUT!
WHEN HEATED THE DRUG GIVES OFF A VAPOR THAT CAUSES ITS VICTIM TO GO VIOLENTLY INSANE AND TO DIE..... ALL WITHIN A FEW MINUTES!
GOOD HEAVENS, BENTLEY.
SOMEBODY PUT THAT POWDER ON THE OIL LAMPS AND WHEN THEY WERE LIGHTED, INSTANTANEOUS INSANITY AND DEATH RESULTED!
BUT MARTIN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW IT WAS IN HERE!
YES! NONE OF US HAS EVER BEEN IN HERE BEFORE!
THAT'S RIGHT, INSPECTOR!
MARTIN WAS STILL IN LOVE WITH ANNE! WHEN HE REALIZED HE COULDN'T HAVE HER, HE KILLED HER AND THEN HIMSELF!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WRONG THERE, DAN! IT WAS ONE OF YOU THREE MEN WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME! AND I'LL PROVE WHO IT WAS!
BENTLEY HAS SOLVED THE MYSTERY!
HAVE YOU?
MARK YOUR CHOICE FOR THE MURDERER AMONG THESE THREE...
TOM DOUGLAS?___
HARRY HARPER?___
DAN DOUGLAS?___
THEN TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE SOLUTION OF INSPECTOR BENTLEY!

HARPER, HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CONGO CURSE?
I NEVER HEARD OF IT UNTIL YOU MENTIONED IT!
YOU'RE LYING, HARPER! WHEN WE BROKE INTO THIS ROOM YOU TOLD US MARTIN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A CONGO CURSE.
I HEARD HIM SCREAMING IT!
OH, NO! WHAT WE HEARD WAS: HELP! THE CURSE! DEMONS! FIRE! CONGO!
UNLESS YOU KNEW WHAT THE CONGO CURSE WAS, YOU'D NEVER HAVE CONNECTED THOSE TWO WORDS TOGETHER!
YOU'RE CRAZY! THAT'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE!
THAT'S RIGHT! BUT YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER BEEN IN THIS ROOM BEFORE!
I NEVER WAS UNTIL WE BROKE IN!
THEN HOW DID YOU KNOW MARTIN HAD A BOLT INSIDE THE DOOR?
I.... I.....
ANNE FELL IN LOVE WITH MARTIN! WHEN HE CALLED YOU IN HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT, HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CONGO CURSE! YOU USED IT TO KILL THEM!
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
IT WAS A HORRIBLE WAY FOR MY SISTER AND MARTIN TO DIE!
YES, BUT NO MORE DREADFUL THAN THE GALLOWS WILL BE FOR HARRY HARPER!
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